THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • MONDAY • APRIL 14, 2025 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 16 • LATE CITY EDITION

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Virat Kohli and Devdutt Padikkal being congratulated by Rajasthan Royals' players at Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur on Sunday | PTI

SALT, KOHLI POWER RCB WIN OVER ROYALS

Phil Salt's explosive 33-ball 65 laid the foundation and Virat Kohli's 100th T20 fifty provided the finishing touch as Royal Challengers Bengaluru cruised to a nine-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals in the IPL in Jaipur on Sunday. RCB's decision to bowl first paid off even as rising India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal's fluent 75 off 47 balls stood out in Rajasthan Royals total of 173/4. | P11

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

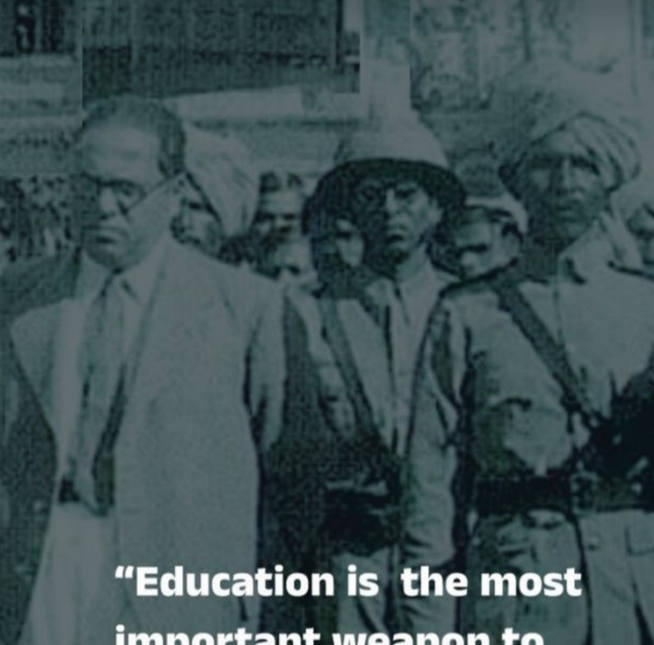
Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

"Education is the most important weapon to raise the standard of living of the people"
-Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

134th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Garlanding the Statue of
Architect of Indian Constitution, Great Humanitarian, Bharat Ratna
Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR
April 14, 2025 Monday at 10.30 AM
East Gate of Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru

Programme
Time - 10.45 AM
Venue - Vidhana Soudha, Grand Steps, Bengaluru



Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare during review meeting of the department.

As is enshrined in our constitution, "to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture" - is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.

Commissioner
Social Welfare Department

@SWDGok

ALMANAC TODAY

- **Monday:** 14.04.2025 • **Year:** Vishwavasu • **Ayana:** Uttarayana
- **Ritu:** Vasantha • **Masa:** Chaitra • **Paksha:** Krishna • **Tithi:** Dwitheeya (Whole Day)
- **Nakshatra:** Swathi 10.02 pm • Moon in Vrischika Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am
- **Gulikakala:** 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • **Yamaganda:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER

MIN 21°C | MAX 32°C

FORECAST Afternoon clouds

Sunrise	06.07 am
Sunset	06.32 pm
Moonrise	07.39 pm
Moonset	06.42 pm

Tejasvi Surya: Waqf Board, a monster created by Congress

Cong gave Waqf Boards a 'real-estate gift card' with which it claimed acres of land: MP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

"THE Congress-led UPA government created a monster in the Waqf Board, which was the petitioner, judge, jury and executioner, all rolled into one. There is no other authority with such all-inclusive powers anywhere else in the world, including Pakistan, Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan," commented Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya here on Sunday.

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2025, which was passed in Parliament a few days ago, curbed the unchecked powers of Waqf Boards, ensuring accountability in their management, he said at 'Sansad Dhvani', a programme on the recently passed Waqf Amendment Act 2025.

Addressing a hall filled with audience, Surya said, "Waqf properties in India were regulated by the Mussalman Wakf Validating Act 1913. Congress, through legislation in 1954 and just before the general elections in 1995 and 2013, passed amendments, giving draconian and mischievous powers to the Waqf Board through 'Section 40' that it can claim any property it wished without any document to support the claim."

He compared the powers given to the Waqf Board to a 'credit card' given to a child for its birthday to purchase whatever it wishes. He said, "The Congress government, because of its appeasement politics, gave Waqf Boards a 'real-estate gift card' with which it went on to claim acres of land, including that of poor farmers."

He said that even centuries after Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's death, his ghost continues to haunt the country in the form of the Waqf Board.

Surya and MP and BJP national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said the total Waqf land in 100 years (from 1913 till 2013) was 18 lakh acres, but in 10 years (from 2013 till 2023), 21 lakh acres were added. This was because of unchecked draconian powers, they alleged.

Trivedi said, "Congress leaders always carry a copy of the Constitution with them. They wanted to keep the Constitution in their pockets, while we kept it in our hearts. Their vision and thinking is limited to elections and appeasing minorities, while we want India to be a developed nation in the next 30 years."

He said BJP is in support of the poor Muslims and stands against fanatics and fundamentalists.

Leader of Opposition R Ashoka, Jayanagar MLA C K Ramamurthy and others were present.

DIFFERENT FAITHS, ONE SPIRIT

Children hold crosses on Palm Sunday at St Andrew's Church in Bengaluru. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of the Holy Week in the Christian calendar, commemorating Jesus' entry into Jerusalem| SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

People dance on the occasion of Bizu Festival at Band Stand in Cubbon Park on Sunday. Bizu is a three-day festival celebrated by the Chakmas to mark the New Year | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Bengaluru's Sikh community gathers to offer prayers at the Ulsoor Gurudwara on Baisakhi, which marks the beginning of the harvest season. The festival signifies the Sikh New Year| SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Child's welfare over parental rights: Experts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CUSTODY BATTLES

COURTS must stop viewing custody battles as a fight between parents and instead focus on the child's emotional wellbeing, emphasised legal experts and judges at a session -- Parental custody of children: Orders regarding visitation rights and custody issues -- during the Southern Zone Regional Conference on 'Family: The Basis of Indian Society'. The two-day event, organised by the Family Courts Committee and Supreme Court of India in association with High Court of Karnataka and Karnataka Judicial Academy, concluded on Sunday.

Judges from the high courts of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana and legal experts from Karnataka discussed how courts must adapt to the emotional world of a child, ensuring that custody arrangements are not just legally sound but also developmentally appropriate. They also raised concerns about the challenges posed by cross-border custody disputes, the lack of coordination between jurisdictions and the need for a uniform approach guided by the child's best interests.

"Exclusion is an adult emotion that children are forced to experience when one parent is removed from their lives," S Sushila, advocate, mediator and master trainer based in Bengaluru said. She criticised the current system of alternating custody or visitation, arguing that it often fails to consider how children experience conflict.

"For a child, the idea of family includes anyone they are emotionally attached to — not just the biological parents. The court must enter the child's world with empathy," she stressed. Sushila also highlighted that the courts should pass orders that are "acceptable, enjoyable and secure" for children rather than merely balancing parental rights.

Drawing on developmental theories by Swiss Psychologist Jean Piaget and Lev Vygotsky, Dr Justice G Jayachandran, Madras High Court judge and member of its Family Courts Committee, and Dr Justice Kauser Edappagath, Kerala High Court judge and its member of Family Courts Committee, who were chairing and co-chairing the event, highlighted how critical it is to understand how children process conflict and separation. They warned against mediation practices that puts pressure on children to make a choice between parents and mentioned that custody is not a tug-of-war, it is about the child's right to feel emotionally safe and have access to both parents.

Justice Moushumi Bhattacharya, Telangana High Court judge and chairperson of the Family Courts Committee, highlighted the complexity of international custody disputes. Sharing a case involving India, the UK and the US, she pointed to the confusion that arises when multiple jurisdictions operate in isolation.

"We must avoid rigid application of the law and instead adopt a sensitive, case-by-case approach. Article 3 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, often referred to as the "best interests of the child" principle, must remain central," she said.

Munirathna to move HC against DKS tomorrow

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

MUNIRATHNA alleged that Shivakumar met BBMP officials at his brother and former MP DK Suresh's house and selected the contractors ((1) Star Infratech aka Star Builders and Developers (2) Ganapathi Stone Crusher Pvt Ltd (3) Ramalingam Construction Company Ltd (4) Manu Constructions (5) DH Patel (6) LIA Constructions (7) Thirumala Giri Constructions (8) Ocean Constructions (INDIA) Pvt Ltd (9) VDB Projects Pvt Ltd (10) RNS Infrastructure Ltd and (11) BSR Constructions.

"The amount of the tenders has already been decided in a manner that is technically convenient for those contracting organisations. Who will get which contract too has been decided," he alleged.

Authorities have imposed tender conditions to suit the chosen contracting firms. "If tenders were called for in small packages, local contractors would have competed and bid about 10% less than the tender amount. This would have saved the government about Rs 200 crore. But contracting firms have been promised an additional 5-10% of the original amount, causing a loss of approximately Rs 300-400 crore to the government," he alleged.

"Since the tender amount is more than Rs 25 crore, a competitive global tender has to be called as per KTPP rules. But with the malicious intention of benefiting the above contractors, it has been called at the state level. In the state-level tender, if the amount is over Rs 2 crore, a long-term (60-day) tender has to be called. But officials were told to call a short-term (30 days) tender and to select these contractors," the BJP MLA charged.

Munirathna said he will move the High Court on Tuesday.

Brew shock: Your cup of cheer to get dearer as hotels hike tea, coffee rates

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

FOLLOWING the recent hike in milk and coffee powder prices, several hotels across Bengaluru have revised the rates of tea and the city's beloved filter coffee, increasing them by at least Rs 3-5. A cup that once cost Rs 15 is now priced at Rs 18, while in some places, prices have jumped from Rs 20 to Rs 25.

Hoteliers told TNIE that they were left with no option but to raise beverage prices, as the cost of key inputs continued to surge. The price of coffee powder has seen a steep hike in less than three months, with some varieties now costing between Rs 1,500 and Rs 2,000 per kg. Even commonly used brands like Arabica, which were priced at Rs 580 per kg earlier, have now shot up to Rs 730 per kg. In addition, milk prices have gone up by Rs 4 per litre, and electricity bills have also risen sharply, adding to the overall burden on restaurants, said hotel owners.

"The price hike has been a major blow. We had been absorbing the losses for some time, especially when we were unsure whether milk prices would also go up but after the recent increase in milk rates, we were left with no choice but to shift the burden onto customers," said Swaminand Y from IDC.

"We are feeling the pinch as much as our customers. We tried to minimise the impact but with costs rising across the board, we had no choice but to increase prices. Customers are cutting back, and we are experiencing fewer walk-ins for quick coffee breaks," Abhimanyu from Hunkal Coffee said.

Amidst the price hike, hoteliers are getting squeezed from both ends-- customers are questioning the increased rates, arguing that a cup of tea or coffee barely requires 50 ml of milk. "What they don't see is the bigger picture — everything from raw materials to electricity bills has shot up. Yet, despite repeated appeals, there's been no intervention from the government," he added.

When TNIE reached out to customers they mentioned that the recent price hike will force them to reduce the number of cups of coffee they consume daily. They also pointed out that the prices of both instant and filter coffee powders have gone up by at least Rs 50, further straining their household budgets.

Truckers to go on indefinite strike today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

URGING the Karnataka government to roll back the diesel price hike along with four other prominent demands, truckers under the Federation of Karnataka State Lorry Owner's and Agent's Association (FKSLOA) said that it will go on an indefinite strike from April 14 midnight. The association president, GR Shanmugappa, said that nearly 6 lakh trucks will take part in the indefinite strike and will not budge until the government rolls back the diesel hike.

Except for milk trucks, all other trucks carrying essentials, construction material, petrol tankers, LPG tankers and other goods will stay off roads starting midnight on April 14. Over 60 associations from 24 states have extended support, and trucks from these states will not enter Karnataka during the strike, he said.

"Karnataka government has hiked the price of diesel twice in a span of just seven months, increasing the operational costs, and truckers are struggling to operate. The diesel price hike has affected every citizen of Karnataka," he said.

The association has also put forth several other demands, including the abolition of toll collection within Karnataka, removal of RTO checkposts at border areas, and a rollback of the Union government's guideline to collect Rs 15,000 for Fitness Certificate renewal. Another major demand is the relaxation of the 'no entry' rule in Bengaluru.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

14th April : I'll be focusing on Venus today. The main planetary alignment of the moment links it to Jupiter. As it happens, these planets represent true romance, raw passion and good fortune. Could this be one of the best days of the year for lovers? Yes, up to a point. But some of the most important developments may not be noticed for another few months.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
The major pattern of your horoscope remains true to that of the last two or even three weeks. This means that your major motivation will still be the very Arien goal of making your individual mark in the world. One word of warning, though: never underestimate the opposition.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Lunar alignments are setting you up for an emotional moment. The only potential flash point occurs when a partner makes an unreasonable demand but, if you start the day with dignity and care - and continue in the same vein - then you should go on to enjoy all that life has to offer.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Keep yourself to yourself if that is what you wish, no matter what demands other people may place on your time and energy. You may use the day constructively to restore your vital emotional reserves, and to catch up with all those overdue chores.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
It is easy to forecast continuing domestic upheaval for Cancers, but impossible to state exactly what stage you have reached: some of you are still formulating your plans while others are on the final stretch. Don't let other people put too much pressure on you.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
The only daily variation in your solar chart this week is provided by the Moon, which means that life should be relatively trouble-free. Today's one blot on the horizon is the vague, but easily avoidable, possibility of irritations at work. Keep your cool!

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
If today brings any change in your mood from last week, it's likely to be a feeling that life is a great adventure waiting to be explored. Try to carry this optimistic revelation into even the most trivial affairs, because you never know exactly when - or how - you'll discover the answers to your current questions.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
You are still likely to be much busier than most of your partners and associates, but you should be thankful that your unique qualities are in demand, rather than resentful at the thought that you are doing more than your fair share. After all, it's good to be wanted!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
The major theme of the week may be money and how to maximise your resources. One emerging possibility is that you will be offered a very discreet chance to form a profitable new partnership. You may be a little over-emotional today, but you'll be in a strong position.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
It should please you no end to know that your social life is set to flourish, even though there may be one or two complications. Today, though, you must pay sufficient attention to your routine chores and commitments prior to accepting any new invitations.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
The Moon, that regulator of your daily emotions, occupies a friendly position, setting you up to take charge of your personal affairs. This is a day to shape your future rather than look for definite forecasts. It's also a useful moment to follow up a hunch.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Something that takes place today may stiffen your resolve to make improvements in your domestic relationships. It is important, though, that you look to the future rather than dwelling on the past, even if certain people keep harking back to the way things used to be.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
If it's friendship you're after, look beyond your immediate circle. It's by participating in new interests and fresh enterprises that you'll forge the partnerships that will carry you through to next year. As you know, no man, or woman, is an island!

			2					
	5					6		
3	9	1		6		5	2	4
2	3	5				7	1	
1	7			3			4	5
	6	8				2	3	9
5	4	3		9		1	7	2
		7					6	
					3			

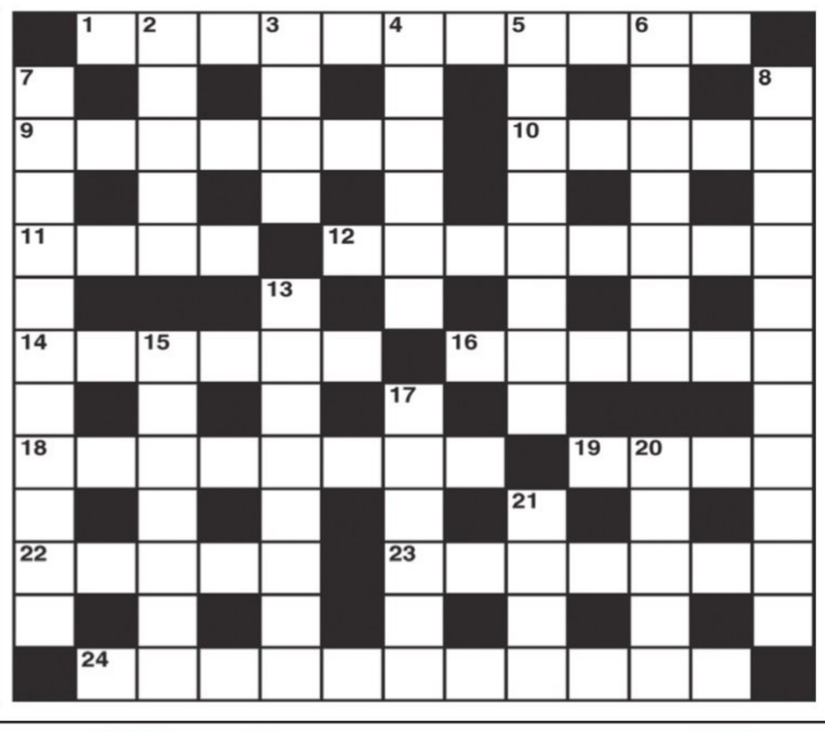
Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

3	1	8	5	6	2	9	4	7
4	5	6	9	7	1	8	2	3
9	7	2	8	4	3	6	5	1
7	8	5	3	2	6	1	9	4
2	4	1	7	9	5	3	8	6
6	9	3	4	1	8	2	7	5
8	2	7	1	3	4	5	6	9
1	6	4	2	5	9	7	3	8
5	3	9	6	8	7	4	1	2

SU DO KU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 Orders translation of rousing tale (11)
9 In and out of work - it's not right (7)
10 Previous head of a religious body (5)
11 I'd look around for bathing facilities (4)
12 One metal fused into many (8)
14 Pinched but made quick getaway (6)
16 The spirit of Switzerland (6)
18 What scores of young people are in? (8)
19 Drink: knock it back as a starter (4)
22 Many a song has a girl's name (5)
23 Fight and beat a tough guy (7)
24 Hailing distance? (6,5)

DOWN

2 Aim to include me? Correct (5)
3 Erect as a tree (4)
4 Be there at the start and finish (6)
5 I'm married and somewhat the worse for wear (8)
6 First officer has a quantity that's unpleasant (7)
7 Hunting season problem for the easily bored? (7,4)
8 Provisional allowances for serving men (4,7)
13 The others have sound rule for control (8)
15 Report rewritten about one entertainer (7)
17 Those doing it are out for the count (6)
20 Ready to fight (3-2)
21 Reheated food in the mess (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Prompt, 4 Isolated, 9 Settle, 10 Schooner, 12 Inns, 13 Steep, 14 Boss, 17 House for sale, 20 Street trader, 23 Ayes, 24 Afire, 25 Knee, 28 Dull thud, 29 Minima, 30 Mandrake, 31 Leased.

Down: 1 Pastiche, 2 Oxtongue, 3 Pile, 5 Success story, 6 Look, 7 Tin-pot, 8 Duress, 11 Stroke of luck, 15 Lento, 16 Flirt, 18 Adenoids, 19 Free hand, 21 Tandem, 22 Berlin, 26 Star, 27 Like.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

ZOFER

NBYNU

DOIUTS

DCULED

I gave you a treasure map! How tough can this be?
We've looked everywhere.
Yourrr accusations arrr hurtful.
We'll keep digging.
THE PIRATE'S ALLEGATION THAT HIS MEN WEREN'T SEARCHING HARD ENOUGH WAS ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Play-Jumble

©2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: MINCE BLIND ENZYME FOUGHT
Answer: For Noah Webster, publishing the first edition of his dictionary was a — DEFINING MOMENT

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • MONDAY • APRIL 14, 2025 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 16 • LATE CITY EDITION

READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
facebook.com/thenewindianxpress twitter.com/newindianxpress
instagram.com/newindianexpress

TRUMP FULLY FIT TO DON ROLE OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: DOCS

Test reports of Donald Trump said he has dropped 20 pounds since his last physical test in 2020. He now weighs 224 pounds

UNDERWENT COLONOSCOPY, EYE SURGERY

In July 2024, according to the report, Trump had a colonoscopy that found a benign polyp and a condition called diverticulosis. It's a common condition in which the walls of the intestine weaken with age. It can lead to inflammation, though most people with it never experience any problems. Trump also had cataract surgery

FACES RISK OF ELEVATED BLOOD PRESSURE

- Trump's cholesterol levels have improved over time, helped by the medications rosuvastatin and ezetimibe, the report said
- His blood pressure was 128 over 74. That is considered elevated, and people in that situation are likely to develop high blood pressure unless steps are taken to control the condition

62

BEATS PER MINUTE IS THE HEART RATE OF DONALD TRUMP AS PER REPORTS

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

NIA seeks voice samples of 26/11 co-conspirator

Probe team also plans to take Tahawwur Rana to Kochi to confront 'mystery witness'

MUKESH RANJAN
@ New Delhi

IN a bid to corroborate call recordings in possession of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the probe team is looking to collect voice samples of Tahawwur Rana, the extradited co-conspirator of the 2008 Mumbai terror attack.

The agency is also preparing to take him to different places across India, including Kochi, which he had visited multiple times before and after the terror attack on November 26 that year, sources said.

Before taking his voice samples, investigators would need Rana's consent. If he refuses, the NIA team can approach the special court. Once the court's permission is obtained, experts from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory will be roped in to collect the voice samples, they added.

The voice samples could then be used for matching with Rana's call records to figure out if he was on the phone giving instructions to the 10 terrorists who attacked Mumbai from November 26 to 28.

According to sources, a 'mystery witness', who is in NIA custody, belongs to Kochi and investigators plan to take Rana to the southern city to confront him. The 'mystery witness' had helped Rana and David Coleman Headley, another accused in the case, in arranging logistics. It is learnt that at least two officers of the NIA Kochi unit are part of the team of 12 investigators questioning Rana.

Investigators are also examining if Rana was connected to Dawood Ibrahim or his criminal network based in Dubai. Rana is being questioned not just for his role in the Mumbai attacks, but also to see if he was involved in planning similar terror attacks in other cities, sources said.

Keeping this in mind and to retrace events that took place 17 years ago to unravel the conspiracy, the sources said, the NIA probe team may take Rana to several other locations across the country.

Besides informing the NIA team about his origins in Pakistan, family, education, immigration to Canada with his wife and opening a travel agency in Chicago, Rana largely remained uncooperative, sources said, adding that he has so far claimed his inability to recall the chain of events but confirmed his presence in Mumbai one week before the attack.

RUSSIAN MISSILES KILL 30 IN UKRAINE

Firefighters try to put out the blaze following Russia's missile attack that killed at least 30 civilians in Sumy, Ukraine | AP | P9

AIADMK's induction gives NDA comfortable majority in the RS

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@ New Delhi

WITH the AIADMK joining the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) a few days ago, the ruling alliance now has a comfortable majority in the Rajya Sabha. "The addition of four AIADMK MPs has solidified the NDA's support in the Upper House. Our aim is to get the One Nation, One Election (ONOE) and other important bills passed in the House as soon as possible," said a senior Rajya Sabha member of the BJP, requesting anonymity.

While the Rajya Sabha has a total of 245 seats, nine of them are vacant and are expected to be filled through nominations in the coming days.

"In effect, the working strength of the Rajya Sabha now is 236, and the simple majority stands at 119. That was where the NDA stood before it stitched up an alliance with the AIADMK. The AIADMK has four members in the Upper House — C V Shanmugam, M Thambidurai, N Chandrasegharan and R Dharma. Its induction raised the NDA's count to 123."

Add to that the support of seven other MPs — six nominated and one Independent. That takes the effective strength to 130.

Then there is Andhra Pradesh, where one Rajya Sabha seat is vacant. It was earlier held by the YSR Congress. With the party routed in the assembly elections, the seat is likely to go to the ruling TDP, which is a key NDA ally.

Four seats remain vacant for nominated MPs, which the BJP may want to pocket. Four other seats are vacant from J&K. The BJP hopes to take at least one of them whenever polls are held, given its strength of 29 MLAs in the 90-member J&K assembly.

If things pan out as expected by the BJP, the NDA's strength could reach around 140. It would be the first time since 2014 that the NDA would have a clear majority in both Houses of Parliament.

"If that happens, the NDA would easily be able to get important bills like the ONOE passed in the Rajya Sabha comfortably," remarked noted political analyst Dr R K Verma.

ZERO LEVY

Trump tariff fiat gives Indian electronics 20% advantage over China

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

INDIA'S exports of iPhones and other electronics items — such as smartphones, laptops, and tablets — to the United States will be 20% cheaper compared to those from China, according to the India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA).

While the US has exempted reciprocal tariffs on electronic imports from most countries, Chinese electronics — particularly iPhones and related devices — continue to face a 20% tariff.

India and Vietnam — two major iPhone manufacturing hubs — now benefit from zero tariffs on exports of iPhones, smartphones, laptops, and tablets to the US. The US had said reciprocal tariff on Indian electronics exported to the US was set at 26%, while China faced a 145% tariff and Vietnam 46%.

A week later, the US postponed the imposition of these tariffs for 90 days, excluding China. On Friday, the US Customs and Border Protection published a notice stating that electronic items — including smartphones, computer monitors, and other gadgets — would be excluded from the reciprocal tariffs announced by the Trump administration. This included the removal of the 26% tariff on Indian products and the 145% tariff on Chinese goods.

According to Counterpoint Research, Apple accounted for more than half of smartphone sales in the US last year.

As a result, Apple may accelerate its plans to shift and expand its manufacturing operations in India. The tariff exemption brings relief to India. India's mobile phone exports hit an all-time high of ₹2,00,000 crore in FY 2024–25, a spike of 55% over the ₹1,29,000 crore recorded in FY 2023–24.

India's total mobile phone production is estimated to have reached ₹5,25,000 crore in financial year 2024-25, up from ₹4,22,000 crore in last fiscal year. Currently, three major iPhone manufacturers operate in India: Foxconn (67% share), Pegatron (17%), and Tata Electronics (16%).

5-yr-old girl killed in Hubballi, cops shoot dead accused

AMIT S UPADHYE @ Hubballi:

IN a shocking incident, a five-year-old girl was found dead inside a toilet of an under-construction building in Adhyapak Nagar of Hubballi on Sunday. The police took swift action and managed to arrest the accused within a few hours of the crime. In the evening, when the accused was trying to escape from the police, he was shot dead by Police Sub-Inspector Annapoorna.

The accused, Ritesh Kumar, 35, from Patna in Bihar was accused of kidnapping and murdering the girl, said Police Commissioner N Shashi Kumar.

The girl's father had gone to work, while the girl was playing outside the house where her mother was working. The accused came to the house, lured the girl and took her. All this was confirmed from the CCTV footage from the spot. When the mother found out that the girl was missing, she and other residents started a search. The girl was found dead inside an unused toilet at the under-construction building.

Soon after the body was found, locals along with the girl's mother protested in front of Ashok Nagar police station. Senior police officers, including Shashi Kumar, rushed to the station and pacified the crowd.

The police immediately went through the CCTV footage from the area, identified the accused and arrested him within a few hours. The police had taken the accused near Tarihal Bridge where he claimed to be staying. There, he tried to flee and was shot in the back and leg. He was brought to KIMS Hospital, where he died, the police said.

Shashi Kumar said they are trying to trace the name and origin of the accused as the investigating team has not found any evidence to confirm these details. The accused had told the police that he used to visit cities for work and he had come to Hubballi previously. The police said medical reports will confirm whether the victim was raped. The girl's parents, who are from Koppal, had come to Hubballi for work. They have two other children, who have disability issues, sources said.

The state government has announced a compensation of Rs 10 lakh to the family of the victim as per the directive of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, said government chief whip Saleem Ahmed.

Prasad Abbayya, chairman of the Corporation Board and MLA, said that a house will be handed over to the family by the slum board.

Residents gather outside the police station seeking the arrest of the accused in Hubballi on Sunday | D HEMANTH

7 MONTHS ON

Law panel may get new head in retd SC judge

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

AFTER remaining headless for over seven months, the 23rd Law Commission may get a new chief this week.

According to sources, former SC judge Justice (retd) Dinesh Maheshwari is likely to head the law panel. Along with Justice Maheshwari, two more members will take charge. One of them could be Prof D P Verma, former member of 22nd Law Commission, sources said. A formal notification announcing Justice Maheshwari's appointment is expected in a couple of days, sources said.

Dinesh Maheshwari

The 23rd law panel was set up on September 2 last year for a period of three years. Though there is a provision to appoint serving Supreme Court and high court judges as its chairperson and members, usually retired top court judges and ex-chief justices of high courts get to hold that high office.

According to its terms of reference, the commission is also tasked to examine whether a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) can be introduced in the country.

Justice Maheshwari retired from the Supreme Court in May 2023. He took oath as a judge of the Rajasthan High Court in September 2004 and was transferred to the Allahabad High Court in 2014. Justice Maheshwari was promoted as the chief justice of Meghalaya High Court in February 2016. Two years later, he was transferred to the Karnataka HC as chief justice. In 2019, he was elevated to the Supreme Court.

According to law ministry sources, the new panel will be mandated with the completion of the draft UCC among other terms of reference. Sources said that the 22nd Law Commission hadn't finalise its report on the UCC.

BJP MLA accuses DKS of taking 15% from ₹2Kcr drain work

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

RAJARAJESHWARI Nagar constituency MLA (BJP) Munirathna has accused Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar of indulging in irregularities in the proposed stormwater drain work taken up with the assistance of a World Bank loan of Rs 2,000 crore. He alleged that the DCM is getting the contracts awarded to certain firms by violating the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement (KTPP) Act.

Alleging that Shivakumar has collected 15% of the tender amount from these firms, Munirathna said 10% is for the DCM, while the remaining 5% will be for another minister.

Munirathna met Governor Thawaarchand Gehlot on Sunday and submitted a petition, seeking investigation. Munirathna stated that he has previously filed a complaint with the Lokayukta, Enforcement Directorate and CBI on irregularities in the tender process.

For the SWD project, tenders have been invited in 16 packages and divided into packages ranging from a minimum of Rs 45 crore to a maximum of Rs 232 crore. This is to prevent small contractors from participating in the tender, he stated. The last date for submission of tenders is April 15. CONTINUED ON P2

EXPRESS READ

8 killed, 8 injured in firecracker unit blast in Andhra Pradesh

Visakhapatnam: At least eight workers died and eight others were injuried in an explosion at a firecracker unit in Kailasapatnam village of Anakapalle district, Andhra Pradesh, on Sunday. The blast occurred when a stockpile of firecrackers caught fire, triggering explosions | P5

Fixing deadline for Guvs not judicial overreach, says SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court in its April 8 verdict held that although it has fixed a timeline for Governors to give their assent or recommendations to bills, the directive did not amount to any "judicial overreach". It asserted that these timelines ensure that it is not rendered ineffective through delays | P7

Judge gets death threat, jailbreak to free Maoist leaders

Ranchi: A judge of the NIA court in Ranchi has received death threat in a letter while another letter warned of jailbreak to free the top Maoist leaders Prashant Bose and Sheela Marandi. An FIR has been registered against four accused at Kotwali police station in Ranchi in this regard, police said | P8

KDA to tell Google to pronounce names of towns, villages correctly

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

BILIMALE is a small village in Dakshina Kannada district. In Kannada, BiLi means white and male (pronounced as maley) means hillock. But Google Maps pronounces it so differently that it changes its meaning completely. This is not about just one village or town. There are a whole host of places whose pronunciations are completely changed and anglicised. The Kannada Development Authority (KDA), in association with ISRO and Google, is now trying to rectify the problem.

KDA Chairman Purushothama Bilimale said names of most villages and towns in Karnataka are based on the surroundings of those places. They are also based on particular castes or communities residing in those places. Generally, the names in Dravidian Kannada are based on hills, water sources, forests, wind and more. "These words are not just names of places. They represent the richness of Kannada language," Bilimale said.

Over the years, some names have become abbreviations, while others have changed. But with Google Maps, which is used extensively by people across the world, the pronunciations have changed further. "There is a need to popularise these places, but with correct pronunciations," he said.

KDA has convened a meeting with ISRO scientists. India has developed its own satellite navigation system, NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation). NavIC is more accurate compared to Google Maps on pronunciations, but it is not recognised outside India.

"We need to meet Google authorities here and explain the issue to them. The revenue department has a collection of audio, which gives the proper pronunciations of names of over 75,000 villages and towns. When someone is using Google Maps, they should hear the voiceover with the correct pronunciation," he said.

KDA also has volunteers in each district who can help recheck the names in Google Maps. If everything goes well, the correction may be completed in five to six months, he said.

Meanwhile, KDA has written to Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh to insist on commercial establishments mentioning the names of their villages and towns at the bottom of name boards. "We need to popularise names of places that are part of our rich culture and history," he added.

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi alleged that a conspiracy was hatched by "fake Gandhis" to stop the centenary celebrations of Dr BR Ambedkar's visit to Nippani. Speaking in Hubballi on Sunday, he accused the Congress high command of instructing the state government to halt the event

ONE STATE, MANY MISSED CHANCES

Karnataka's tourism potential remains largely untapped, and the state has much to learn about capitalising on trends, improving infrastructure, and marketing its heritage and beaches

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

BIG PICTURE

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

AS a tourist destination, Karnataka lives up to its tagline: One State, Many Worlds. But for snow, the state offers everything that a tourist needs to relax and rejuvenate. Yet, to become the top preferred destination for all travellers, the authorities need to learn a little more about tourism, and adopt some of the best practices from destinations drawing higher footfalls, to improve facilities in the state.

Stakeholders, tour operators, industry experts and tourism officials point out that the Karnataka government needs to watch out for early trends and work fast to catch them, like the Ramayana Circuit, vegetarian and highway tourism.

Karnataka ranks fourth in India in the domestic tourism category, and is at 12 in international tourism. Experts suggest there is a lot of scope for improvement, especially when it comes to basics like wayside facilities and services.

"A 150km trip outside Bengaluru, and the world changes. There are poorly maintained wayside amenities, hotels and restaurants. Simple facilities like washrooms become a concern. The focus of the government is Bengaluru. But this is not the case with states like Tamil Nadu or Kerala," said Shobhith B, a software professional and avid traveller.

A tourism official likens the situation to too many cooks spoiling the broth, "As per standards, there should be a restroom facility every 60km. Construction of toilets along roads is the task of the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) and Public Works Department (PWD), but the onus of maintaining them is on the property owner or district administration. Approval and funding rests with the finance department. Their construction and maintenance will benefit the tourism sector, which is not happening."

Karnataka recorded 4.85 lakh international tourist arrivals in 2024, up from 4.01 lakh tourists in 2023. The number of domestic tourists stood at 30.46crore in 2024, compared to 28.35 crore in 2023.

Snatching opportunities

Stakeholders said the government and tourism department are not making the most of opportunities available to them in attracting tourists.

A consultant working with the department, who did not want to be identified, said: "There is overcrowding in Goa. Udhagamandalam (Ooty) is losing out on tourism because of the recent introduction of entry pass. This can become a golden opportunity for Karnataka to promote its destinations, but the trend was not studied in advance, to compete and improve facilities for this tourist season in places like Karwar, Gokarna, Mangaluru, Talacauvery, Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru or Sakleshpur. They continue to be looked at as short-haul weekend getaways."

The consultant added that the government has been overpromoting Hampi, while Belur, Halebidu, Pattadakal and Aihole, which are also Unesco heritage sites and have a lot of potential, have not been given equal priority.

"Tourists visiting Gokarna and Goa stretch to Hampi and vice-versa. But in case of other sites, there is nothing beyond them to see and do. More so, there are no basic facilities, including tourist security and availability of well-trained guides. This has been well understood by Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and now even Uttar Pradesh. Other states score as all their heritage properties are being given equal importance," he added.

Consultants have also suggested to officials that instead of travelling overseas, they should travel to other states, especially North India, to learn about opportunities like highway tourism, which is becoming popular across India. "With many people buying high-end cars and SUVs, and the Central government improving the road network, people now prefer to drive long distances instead of depending on buses or trains. This is a big opportunity Karnataka should immediately tap," the consultant added.

Affordability and packages

In multiple meetings, stakeholders who study tourist trends pointed out that when domestic tourism is the pulse of Karnataka, it should be made more affordable. But at present, domestic tourism is costly compared to international travel.

"The tourism department, in coordination with hoteliers and experts, should work on designing affordable tourism packages for all categories of travellers. These packages should be dynamic and customised, depending on trends and types of travellers. Also, the government should only regulate tourism and ease the process of issuing sanctions, permissions and certifications. But due to red tape and multiple restrictions, hoteliers lose interest in offering additional facilities and services to tourists. This is where Karnataka loses out to other states," said a consultant working with the government.

The government is also concentrating on developing and enhancing infrastructure in select sites like Hampi and Gokarna. Prolonged delays in clearing projects around other promising places like Aihole, Pattadakal, Belur, Halebidu and even Lakkundi, is affecting footfall, said a hotelier.

"Government agencies need to understand that no one travels alone. India, especially Karnataka, is not ready to accept and support solo women travellers. So if a couple or family is travelling, packages should be subsidised and customised to their needs to make tourists happy. They should understand that more than the government's marketing, it is word of mouth and feedback from tourists that increases footfall," added the hotelier, who did not want to be named as he works closely with the government.

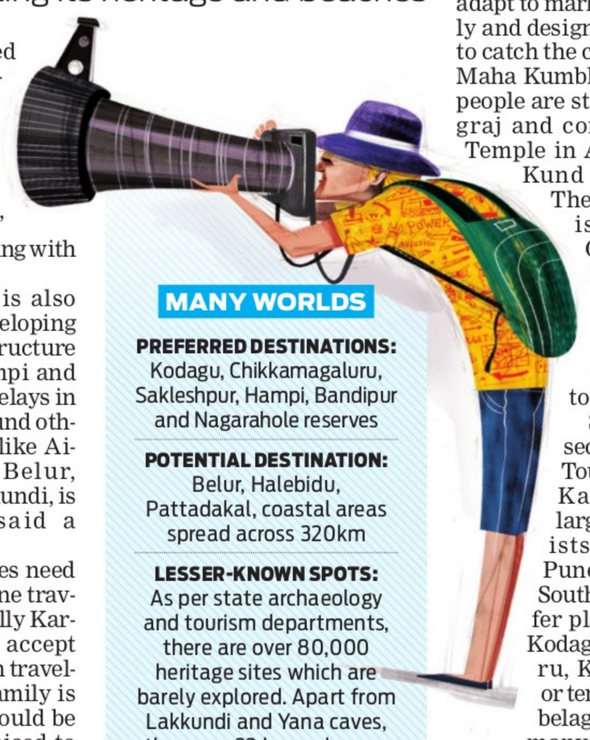
improving domestic tourism

Syama Raju, president, Karnataka Tourism Society, said domestic tourism is picking up in Karnataka, when compared to international travel. There is a lot of scope for improvement, especially in the creation of wayside amenities, first- and last-mile connectivity from airports in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, improved flight connectivity under the Udaan scheme, chain of good hotels and hygiene.

Sundar Singaram, Director - Operations, South Indian Hotels and Restaurants' Association, said domestic travel has also become costly because of airfare. "Airlines tend to raise fares when they see a rise in bookings. They grasp the trends very fast. Charges further increase depending on availability and quality of facilities at tourist locations," he said.

"This is where international destinations like Nepal, Indonesia, Thailand and Sri Lanka are scoring. Hotels, tour operators and government agencies should collectively keep a close watch on changing lifestyles and market trends. For example, the thrust this year is on family and religious tourism. Many tourists are now looking for 'Vegetarian Only' places. Stakeholders and government agencies should be flexible to adapt to market changes quickly and design unique packages to catch the crowd. Though the Maha Kumbh mela has ended, people are still going to Prayagraj and continuing to Ram Temple in Ayodhya and Sita Kund in Gaya, Bihar. The trend this season is the Ramayana Circuit, which Karnataka should have tapped," admitted a tourism department official, not wanting to be named.

S Mahalingaiah, secretary, Karnataka Tourism Society, said Karnataka gets a large number of tourists from Mumbai, Pune, Hyderabad and South Chennai who prefer places like Dandeli, Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru, K Gudi, Bandipur, or temples in Shravanabelagola, Kukke Subramanya, Dharmasthala, Udupi, Murudeshwar, Jain Basadis and Kollur. The biggest competition for Karnataka is from Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Goa, Tamil Nadu and now even Hyderabad. Thus a lot of effort is needed to explore the state's maximum potential.



MANY WORLDS

PREFERRED DESTINATIONS: Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru, Sakleshpur, Hampi, Bandipur and Nagarahole reserves

POTENTIAL DESTINATION: Belur, Halebidu, Pattadakal, coastal areas spread across 320km

LESSER-KNOWN SPOTS: As per state archaeology and tourism departments, there are over 80,000 heritage sites which are barely explored. Apart from Lakkundi and Yana caves, there are 22 lesser-known beach locations, including Pannambur, Kasargod, Kapu and Sasihithlu

TOUGH COMPETITION

A team of consultants and stakeholders has prepared a list of locations which face tough competition with other states, and which need special attention.

Coorg and Mysuru compete with Wayanad and Ooty

Coastal Karnataka competes with Kasargod, Goa and Puducherry

Wildlife tourism destinations compete with Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat

Temple towns compete with those in Tamil Nadu

Fill the gaps

Commenting on gaps in what is planned on paper and what is seen on the ground, a tourism ministry official said, "The problem is not just in Karnataka, but states across India. It is the lack of aggressive marketing and promotion of destinations on international and domestic platforms. All that it is promoted on international platforms is the Taj Mahal, Hampi, Goa, Ranthambore and Gir. On domestic platforms, it is Hampi, Karwar, Murudeshwar, Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru and Mysuru. But there are many more places and private destinations that should be included in the list. The government needs to learn from Italy, Japan or even West Asia, where every year something new is promoted along with older destinations. How a destination is packaged is also important. All international websites have a window where tourist destinations and native language is promoted. This is lacking here."

S Shanmugham, member, Tourism Committee, Federation of Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI), said the government should pay special attention to improve last-mile connectivity from bus stands, railway stations and airports in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities to tourist destinations, hotels and resorts. Dependence on private transport and exploitation is a concern.

Shanmugham added that most of the tourist spots are in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, where infrastructure, affordable hotels and hygiene need to be maintained. These are the basics tourists look for and take back. This will not just help attract more tourists, but also improve the economy and boost employment.

Official speak

Karnataka Tourism Director KV Rajendra said the tourism sector in the state is thriving largely on domestic tourism, which makes up 70-90% of footfalls, depending on the season and occasion.

Addressing concern over the delay in providing facilities in certain locations, he said it is a Catch-22 situation. As tourists point to the need, stakeholders and financiers see no quick returns. Thus the government has taken up the task of constructing three-star hotels which will be operated by Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) in select locations, including Belur, Pattadakal, Aihole and in coastal areas.

"We are also preparing a demand and supply report of each location to undertake development-based infrastructure works," he said, adding that to close the last-mile connectivity gap, talks are being held with bus operators and hoteliers in most tourist locations.

Rajendra said work is on to improve infrastructure and food and beverage setups along the coast and in North Karnataka.

Talks with NHAI and PWD are being held to improve wayside amenities. A regulatory mechanism is also being worked on for constant checks and feedback.

DKS says legislators can debate caste census report in Assembly

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Sunday said legislators representing various communities have a scope to debate the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey (SEC) report, also known as the caste census, which was accepted by the Siddaramaiah cabinet on Friday.

"The chief minister said people's representatives will be allowed to discuss the caste census report in the Assembly. What can be done more transparently than this?" he said in response to certain communities expressing concern about the census.

"They (Veerashaiva Mahasabha) are going to protect their interests; why should we criticise them? Let them express their views according to the Constitution," he told reporters.

He was replying to mahasabha national president and senior Congress legislator Shamanuru Shivashankarappa's criticism of the census and demand for setting up an expert committee to look into it.

Asked about his previous statement that the Vokkaliga community should back him ahead of the Assembly elections, he said, "That is a different matter. Now I am the president of the Congress. Providing justice to everyone is my duty."

Meanwhile, responding to opposition parties alleging government apathy towards 'Karaga' festivities in Bengaluru, Shivakumar said, "Bengaluru is a great symbol of unity. Dargahs are also visited during the Karaga festival. It is mean to do politics in the name of religion. No one should do this."

POWER FOR SEVA DAL AT TALUKS, DISTS

Shivakumar on Sunday assured the Congress' wing Seva Dal that it will be given power at the taluk and district levels. "Seva Dal is the pillar of the Congress. Don't feel that you are at the bottom of the party. I am thinking of giving power to the Seva Dal at taluk and district levels," he said at a state-level conference of the Bharatiya Seva Dal at Bharat Jodo Bhavan.

"Society recognises those who do service. That is why in our society, there are more temples of Lord Hanuman, devotee of Lord Ram, than of Lord Ram's father Dasharatha Maharaj. Similarly, you are the pillar of the Congress. All Seva Dal workers should keep this in mind," he said.

"The Seva Dal was established for the purpose of national security. It started during Jawahar Lal Nehru's tenure and has been going on till now under Mallikarjun Kharge's leadership. You should get rid of the idea that Seva Dal is a side wing of the Congress and does not have recognition. Nehru and Indira Gandhi themselves took over the post of Seva Dal presidents because they believed that Seva Dal imparts leadership qualities," he said.

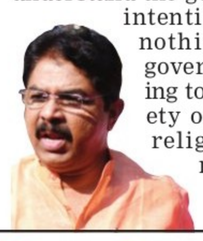
It's nothing but bid to divide, says Ashoka

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

LEADER of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka on Sunday alleged that the caste census report was prepared at Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's house. Stating that Siddaramaiah is trying to create rift between Vokkaligas, Lingayats and Dalits, the BJP leader said, "The CM summoned the then Backward Commission chairman Kantharaju to his residence and dictated the contents of the report to him. But Kantharaju refused to sign it and left."

Ashoka said the report allegedly cost Rs 150 crore and demanded an investigation into who misused the funds. He reiterated that the report was designed to secure a Muslim vote bank. "The report is no more a secret. Now it says Muslims are more in number and there is a conspiracy behind this," he told reporters.

He said this is the party that celebrated Tipu Jayanti, promised to give Rs 10,000 crore to Muslims and ensured 4 per cent reservation in government contracts for them. "People should understand the government's intention. This is nothing but the government trying to divide society on caste and religion in the name of the report."



Govt nod to naming Tumakuru rly stn after seer

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

UNION Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti V Somanna on Sunday said he will soon meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah and take up the matter of naming the Tumakuru railway station after Sri Shivakumara Swamiji of Siddaganga Mutt.

Somanna, who is also the Tumakuru MP, thanked Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Tumakuru District in-charge Minister Dr G Parameshwara for giving the state government's consent in this regard.

"The Ministry of Railways has resolved to name the station after the 'walking god', Sri Shivakumara Swamiji, and had written to the Ministry of Home Affairs, which has sought the consent of the state government. Though late, after a delay of six months, the state government took action for which I am indebted to the CM and the district in-charge minister," he told reporters here. The railway station will be developed at an estimated cost of Rs 89 crore, he added.

Detailing the yeoman service of the swamiji in its letter to the Ministry of Home Affairs, the state's infrastructure development department said the government has approved the proposal to rename the Tumakuru railway station as Dr Shri Shri Shivakumara Swamiji railway station.

The Sri Siddaganga Mutt has a very prominent place in the hearts of people belonging to all communities in Karnataka. For many decades, the mutt has rendered great service to the underprivileged and downtrodden by providing food, shelter and education for their upliftment, the department wrote.

Padmabhusha Dr Shri Shri Shivakumara Mahaswamiji became the head of the mutt in 1930 and for nearly 87 years, he rendered great service to society and is recognised as a "walking god". He served thousands of orphan children from various castes and creeds and provided them with good education, food and shelter. The mutt is revered by crores of devotees. The institution headed by him was admired by dignitaries such as presidents and prime ministers, who visited the mutt and acknowledged the yeoman services rendered by the swamiji, the department said and requested the Ministry of Home Affairs to consider the proposal positively.

Cong ex-corporator held for provocative speech on Waqf Bill

Davanagere: The district police have arrested former Davanagere Congress corporator Kabir Khan from Rajasthan for allegedly making a provocative speech regarding the Waqf Bill. A police team picked up Khan, the prime accused in the case, from Ajmer city and brought him to Davanagere. In his speech, Khan exhorted people to torch trains, buses and attack railway stations in retaliation for the passing of the bill. A video of Khan's speech went viral and the Azad Nagar police station registered a case. Following this, Khan went into hiding. Two days ago, the Davanagere police arrested other accused, Abdul Gani (56) and Mohammed Zubair (40). Khan has been produced before a judge who remanded him in judicial custody. **ENS**

N-K's famed Gajendragad sarees get GI tag

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @Gadag

NORTH Karnataka's famed 'patteda anchu' sarees, much sought after for their distinctive border lines, received the coveted Geographical Indication tag recently. The traditional handloom sarees from North Karnataka's Ilkal, Betageri, Gajendragad and other parts are a huge draw among women, especially during the marriage season, and the recognition will help the skilled weavers to continue the profession.

The sarees originated from the Gajendragad Weavers Association, and Ramaiah College of Law's Centre for Intellectual Property Rights and Karnataka's GI registration nodal agency -- Vishweshwaraiah Promotion Centre -- applied for the registration in March this year.

Weavers of Gajendragad were elated with the recognition. A weaver said, "We are happy to get the Geographical Indication tag for our patteda anchu sarees. This style gets much appreciation from saree buyers. Customers and wholesalers from Mumbai, Telangana and other neighbouring states visit us to give bulk orders. Our traditional sarees get a good demand during the marriage season. We thank our organisation members and others who registered for the GI tag."

The traditional 'patteda anchu' sarees (left) being weaved in a handloom unit at Gajendragad in North Karnataka

Basanagouda Patil, a saree seller in Gadag, said, "We get many orders for Gajendragad patteda anchu sarees. Women in North Karnataka and Maharashtra wear these sarees during festivals and marriages. We are happy to know that Gajendragad sarees got GI tag. This will bring new confidence among skilled handloom workers."

Two men, Lingamaiah (40) and Prathap (39), died after they were attacked with sharp weapons by a group of people, in Batlahalli village in Chintamani taluk. Another person, Sagar (20), who sustained severe injuries, was shifted to Victoria Hospital. Police said preliminary probe revealed the attack was due to rivalry and disputes on various issues

POCSO CASE: PASTOR JEBARAJ HELD FROM HIDEOUT IN MUNNAR

He had sexually assaulted two minors at a party in his residence

John Jebaraj was arrested by the special team attached to the Central All-Women Police Station in Coimbatore on Saturday morning. He was brought from Munnar to Coimbatore on Sunday | S SENBAGAPANDIYAN

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Coimbatore

PASTOR D John Jebaraj, accused of sexually assaulting two girls last year, was arrested on Saturday evening in Munnar, Kerala, by a special team of the Coimbatore city police.

Police sources say a relative of a minor girl had lodged a complaint against Jebaraj (37) with the All-Women Police Station (AWPS) at Coimbatore Central on April 5.

Jebaraj, who was hiding in Munnar was brought to Coimbatore on Sunday morning by a special team from the AWPS and lodged in prison after being produced before the POCSO special court. Earlier, Coimbatore City Police Commissioner A Saravana Sundar had formed special teams from the Race Course Police Station and the AWPS Central to nab the accused who had gone into hiding.

Further, the police had issued a lookout notice for Jebaraj to all airports and ports to prevent him from escaping abroad.

Meanwhile, special teams searched for him in the southern districts of the state, Bangalore, Kerala, and other places. Finally, a special team from the Race Course Police Station, led by Inspector Arjun Kumar, apprehended him from Munnar on Saturday evening.

The police complaint stated that he sexually assaulted two minors, aged 17 and 14, who attended a party Jebaraj had arranged at his residence in the GN Mills area of the city on May 21, 2024.

Following this, he was booked under Section 9(1)(m) (aggravated sexual assault) and 10 (punishment for aggravated sexual assault) of the POCSO Act.

The alleged sexual assault came to light after one of the minors recently informed a relative about the incident, following which her family complained to the police, police sources added.

Jebaraj, the senior pastor of the Kings Generation Church — a Pentecostal outfit — on Cross Cut Road in Coimbatore city, has a large following on social media for his Christian devotional songs. His Instagram account shows the follower count at 198,000. The YouTube account has 958,000 subscribers.

The explosion engulfed the entire fire cracker unit premises and reduced it to a rubble in Kailasa Patnam village in Anakapalle district on Sunday

8 killed, 8 injured in firecracker unit blast in Anakapalle district

USHA PERI @ Visakhapatnam

AT least eight workers lost their lives, and eight others sustained injuries in an explosion at a firecracker manufacturing unit in Kailasapatnam village of Kotauratla mandal, Anakapalle district, on Sunday. The fire, which broke out following the explosion, spread rapidly through the unit, engulfing the entire premises within minutes and reducing it to rubble.

According to reports, the blast occurred when a large stockpile of firecrackers caught fire, triggering a series of explosions. A total of 16 workers were present in the unit at the time of the incident. The deceased have been identified as Dadi Ramalakshmi (35) of Rajupeta, Puram Papa (40), Gumpina Venubabu (34), Sangarati Govindu (40), and Appikonda Pallayya (50) of Kailasapatnam, Senapati Baburao (55) of Chowduvada, Devara Nirmala (38) of Vetlapalem, and Hemanth (20) of Bheemunipatnam.

Of the injured, six are undergoing treatment at King George Hospital (KGH) in Visakhapatnam, while two others are being treated at the Narsipatnam Area Hospital.

Speaking to the media, KGH Superintendent Dr P Sivananda said, "Soon after we received the alert about the accident, all departments, including the plastic surgery, paramedical, and allied medical teams, were put on standby to attend to the victims. Upon their arrival at KGH, the injured were directly shifted to the burns ward operation theatre instead of the general casualty ward to immediately clean their wounds and prevent infection." Dr. Sivananda added that two women, though not severely burnt, sustained other injuries.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu expressed shock over the deaths and spoke with the Anakapalle District Collector Vijaya Krishnan, Superintendent of Police Tuhin Sinha, and Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the incident and announced an ex gratia of Rs. 2 lakh each for the families of the deceased and Rs 50,000 each for the injured.

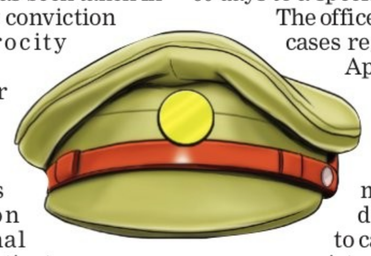
33 DCRE police stations begin operations from today

RAKSHITH GOWDA @ Bengaluru

IN a first-of-its-kind initiative in South India, a dedicated DCRE (Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement) police station will begin functioning from Monday in Karnataka to investigate all cases of atrocities against Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) reported in the state.

The DCRE was established in Karnataka in 1974 to protect the civil rights of SCs and STs. With this move, the DCRE officials now have the authority to investigate all cases registered under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. Referred to as the 'Protection Cell' for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka, the DCRE is empowered to ensure justice and fast-track investigations in atrocity cases.

As many as 33 DCRE police stations will be operationalised across the state starting Monday. Bengaluru city alone will have two DCRE stations- East and West. The decision to empower the DCRE with investigative powers has been taken in light of the low conviction rates in atrocity cases.



A senior DCRE officer told TNIE that from April 14, DCRE officials will function with additional powers to investigate all atrocity cases.

He said, "Earlier, the DCRE only looked into cases related to fake caste certificates involving SC/ST communities. Now, the atrocity case being registered anywhere in the state, the local police must inform both the DCRE headquarters in Bengaluru and the respective district DCRE unit," he said, adding that local police can still investigate the cases.

The DCRE is required to complete the investigation and submit the chargesheet within 60 days to a special court.

The officer further said cases registered from April 14 will be investigated by the DCRE officers as the government order does not apply to cases that were registered earlier.

"Today, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will officially announce the launch of DCRE police stations at Vidhana Soudha during the celebration of Ambedkar Jayanti," he added.

He also noted that while the DCRE currently has limited staff, it is expected to strengthen the unit by deputing staff as per the sanctioned strength. Based on the number of cases, additional personnel would be sanctioned.

According to a government order outlining the modalities for DCRE police stations, any willful negligence by any officer in the process of registering, investigating, handing over, or taking over atrocity cases will attract provisions under Section 4 of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. The order further states that the jurisdictional Superintendent of Police or Commissioner shall provide security or deploy additional police personnel whenever required by DCRE police officers for arresting accused persons, providing custody, or assisting in any part of the investigation. Any law and order situation arising from such cases will remain the responsibility of the jurisdictional police, the order added.

BJD leader Pranab Kumar attacked

Bhubaneswar: BJD leader and former Dharmasala MLA Pranab Kumar Balabantaray was attacked and his car vandalised by some miscreants at Aruha village in Jajpur district on Sunday. Balabantaray, who escaped unharmed, was going to attend a religious ceremony at Aruha village when the incident took place. According to reports, the former legislator was heading in his SUV to take part in the Hingula Yajna at the village. When he was about to reach the venue at about 1pm, some club wielding youths, intercepted his vehicle and started attacking it. He was rescued by locals, said to be his supporters. But his vehicle was severely damaged by the armed group. The incident has sparked tension in the area. Balabantaray, however, has not filed any complaint with the police saying he has no faith in Jajpur police. BJD President Naveen Patnaik condemned the attack on Balabantaray, stating that it a reflection of the deteriorating law and order situation in the state.

Parents burn children with incense sticks to treat fever

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @ Koppal

IN KOPPAL

IN this Koppal village, parents burn kids suffering from fever with incense sticks, instead of administering medicines. Last month, a woman allegedly used an incense stick to treat her seven-month-old baby, who later died.

Social activists collecting details in Vithalapur village and surrounding areas came to know that 18 such cases were reported in the district. While some cases came to light, many went unnoticed, they claimed. The villagers reportedly burn the kids' skin with incense sticks, in the belief that the agarbatti ash has the power to treat fever, and the gods bless them with good health.

The district administration took the incident seriously after the death of the seven-month-old baby, and now, cases are to be filed against the parents of all 18 kids.

Residents of Koppal rue that while the world is moving far ahead, Vithalapur's villagers still believe in superstition and are killing their children without understanding medical needs. An incident was first brought to the notice of some social activists a few months ago, but there was no proof. District health and family welfare officials confirmed this trend after closely monitoring such cases in their hospitals. Now, health department officials have instructed Child Protection Units to keep a vigil in the village and create awareness about the same.

A few villagers claimed there are some families which strongly believe in such superstitions and spread their beliefs to others. "We were surprised to hear that parents burn their kids' skin with incense sticks for better health. We request the district administration and police to punish wrongdoers and keep a vigil on such practices, and also arrest 'babas' who suggest such cruel treatments," they said.

An official from Kanakagiri taluk administration said, "The DC instructed us to file cases against wrongdoers. We will keep vigil and create awareness among villagers."

K'taka announces Special Sports Selection Camps for students

The Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports will be organising special camps to select students for sports schools and hostels run by the department at the following dates and districts.

APRIL 15: Kanteerava Stadium (Bengaluru), district stadiums in Dharwad, Davanagere, Hassan, Tumakuru, Belagavi and Chamundi Vihara Stadium in Mysuru

APRIL 17: Chikkamagaluru, Kalaburagi, Udupi, Bidar, Ballari, Gadag

ELIGIBILITY:

Athletes from any part of the state can participate. Candidates who missed the earlier selection camps for 2025–26 can attend these special camps. Those who participated but weren't selected for the state-level camp may also join.

Candidates seeking admission to 8th standard should be currently studying in 7th standard and must be within 14 years of age as on June-2025 for 8th standard admission.

For first PUC, age of candidates should be within 18 years as on June-2025.

FOR MORE DETAILS, CONTACT YUVA HELPLINE: 155265

EXPRESS READ

25 sheds gutted at Veerannapalya fire

Bengaluru: Over 25 sheds belonging to daily wage labourers and factory workers were completely gutted in a fire accident on Saturday near the main road in Veerannapalya, under the jurisdiction of the Govindapura police station. However, no casualties were reported in the fire mishap. According to the Fire and Emergency Services, the fire broke out around 7.20 pm in one of the sheds due to a suspected short circuit. The fire then spread quickly to adjacent sheds. Three fire tenders rushed to the spot and managed to douse the flames within four hours. Officers said that most of the workers were from the Kalyana Karnataka region and North Karnataka.

MAHATRANSCO
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd

E TENDER NOTICE

MSETCL invites online bids (E-Tender) from registered contractors / agencies on Mahatransco E-Tendering website http://srmetender.mahatransco.in; for following works.

Tender No :- CE/EHV PC O&M Zone/Pune/T-01/2025-26 **RFX No.** 7000036100

Subject: E-tender for Enhancement of transformation capacity of substations by replacement / Addition of ICTs at 400kV Lonikand-II & 220kV South Solapur S/s under Pune Zone. *(ICT will be supplied by MSETCL)*

Tender Amount:- Rs. 17,07,76,457/- **EMD:-** Rs. 17,07,764/- **Tender Fees:-** Rs. 25,000/- +GST.

Download of tender Documents :- From dtd. 15/04/2025 to dtd. 06/05/2025 up to 11:00 Hrs.

Bid Opening:- Dtd. 06/05/2025 after 12:00 Hrs (Tech.); Dtd. 08/05/2025 after 12:00Hrs (Price)

For further detail visit our website http://mahatransco.in and open above RFX for downloading tender document, schedules, and annexures.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, EHV PC O&M Zone Pune

SG Palya groping case: Cabbie nabbed from Kerala

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

In a major breakthrough, police arrested a 29-year-old cab driver who allegedly sexually harassed a woman while she was heading to her PG accommodation with her friend. The incident occurred on April 3 under the jurisdiction of Suddaguntepalya police station.

Ten days after the incident, police traced the accused, Santosh, a resident of Tilak Nagar, who works as a cab driver for a private agency. According to a source, he was arrested near Kozhikode in Kerala. Officials are bringing him back to the city. On the night of the incident, the accused was allegedly under the influence of alcohol when he saw the two young women walking. He approached one of them, sexually harassed her, and fled, police said, adding the incident was captured on CCTV.

His movements were tracked through Hosur and Salem districts in Tamil Nadu, before he reached Kozhikode. Police added that he will be produced before court on Monday.

SUSPECT SUICIDE

SIT registers chargesheet against DySP

ENS @ Bengaluru

THE Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the suicide of a 33-year-old suspect in the Karnataka Bhovi Development Corporation (KBDC) scam has found that Crime Investigation Department (CID) Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP) BM Kanakalakshmi harassed and tortured her during an enquiry.

According to sources, nearly all of the victim S Jeeva's allegations were proven during the investigation. The DySP also conducted the spot inspection at the wrong location. On November 21, a day before Jeeva's death, the officer allegedly visited Jeeva's shop and humiliated her publicly.

The DySP is currently in judicial custody, the sources said. The SIT arrested Kanakalakshmi on March 11.

On November 22, 2024, Jeeva, a businesswoman, died by suicide at her residence. In her death note, she accused Kanakalakshmi of misconduct. Jeeva alleged that the officer stripped her, interrogated her.

Tirumala laddu case: CBI-led SIT intensifies probe

Tirupati: In a major development, the CBI-led Special Investigation Team, appointed by the Supreme Court, has intensified its probe into the Tirumala laddu ghee adulteration case by issuing fresh notices—to witnesses linked to Boleba Dairy (Uttarakhand), AR Dairy (TN), and Vaishnavi Dairy (Andhra Pradesh). The witnesses include employees involved in ghee processing and tanker loading operations.In February 2025, SIT arrested four accused—owners and directors of the three dairies. In March, witness statements were recorded in the Tirupati Magistrate Court. However, some earlier witnesses failed to respond to notices, prompting SIT to now focus on completing the documentation of testimonies to strengthen the upcoming chargesheet. SIT officials are coordinating with the prosecution team to prepare a foolproof chargesheet. Previously seized documents are being re-examined, and missing evidence is being gathered from dairy staff.

Government of Odisha
Higher Education Department

Inviting Applications for Government of Odisha Sponsored UPSC Civil Services Residential Coaching Scheme for the Session 2025-26

N-10

Government in the Higher Education Department is providing free UPSC Civil Services Residential Coaching to 200 aspirants who are domiciles of Odisha

1. It will be a residential coaching i.e. food and accommodation will be provided by Government to the selected candidates.
2. There will be a pre-qualifying entrance examination for shortlisting 200 candidates and the date of examination is 8th June, 2025.
3. Coaching will be provided for 11 months for Prelims and Mains examination (General Studies and Optional paper) as per the syllabus of UPSC.
4. The detailed guideline in this regard is available in Higher Education Department website-www.dhe.odisha.gov.in

Interested candidates, having the eligibility as mentioned in the guideline, may apply in SAMS portal of Higher Education Department to appear in the entrance examination.

Application Fee: Rs.100/- is to be deposited through online mode at the time of submission of application.

Sl. No	Description	Timeline
1	Availability of Common Application Form (CAF) in the SAMS website	15.04.2025 (04.00 P.M)
2	Last date of applying online CAF	09.05.2025 (11.45 P.M.))
3	Submission of applicant's data to SSB by OCAC to conduct Entrance Examination	14.05.2025
4	Date of Entrance Examination	08.06.2025
5	Availability of Admitcard in SSB website (www.ssbodisha.ac.in)	03.06.2025
6	Publication of Selection List	Dates will be notified by Higher Education Department later
7	Last Date of Admission of Selected Applicants	
8	Commencement of Coaching Classes	

For more details please contact:
Helpdesk@0674-2954600, e-mail:civilservicesscheme2024@gmail.com
OIPR- 11001/11/0049/2526

YOUR GUIDE TO THE WORLD

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS GROUP

GLOBAL EXPRESS

Expert opinions | In-depth analysis
Comprehensive coverage

INDIA-SRI LANKA: THE UNLIKELIEST OF ALLIES?

Scan to watch

DECODED BY
NEENA GOPAL
IN CONVERSATION WITH EXPERTS

SUBSCRIBE NOW TO STAY UPDATED

EDITORIAL

At least half of the popular fallacies about economics come from assuming that economic activity is a zero-sum game, in which what is gained by someone is lost by someone else

Thomas Sowell

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

CPM'S BABY FACES TOUGH TASKS, GETS TO PROVE WORTH

THE CPM has a new boss in M A Baby, a veteran of many battles. These are difficult times for Left politics in India in general and CPM in particular, and, as general secretary of India's main communist party, Baby's challenges are enormous and immediate. Baby declared his biggest task is to resist the Sangh Parivar and the BJP government. It is understandable from an ideological perspective, but the ground realities say his party, with under 2 percent vote share in the country, is grossly underpowered to put up a significant resistance nationally. To be fair to Baby, he also acknowledged the relevance of the Congress and the importance of a national-level alliance to take on the BJP. Yet, his party neither has the numerical strength to play a decision-making role in such an alliance nor the clout to ensure its unity.

In such a scenario, the challenges for Baby are mostly within the organisation and in Kerala, the party's only stronghold. The best way to begin is to acknowledge this and resist being carried away by the lure of a national image. The simple truth is that CPM may have a new national general secretary, but it still has no national presence. So, his first task should be to change this situation. He can focus on improving the party's strength through expansion beyond Kerala, especially where it once had a considerable presence. He also has the task of preserving the currently fragile Left unity. In Kerala, Baby must be able to suitably intervene to address the twin challenges of the loss of popularity of the LDF government and the gradual erosion of the support base.

There are two ways for Baby to go about his job. One is to be content with the situation and do nothing. There won't be any complaints, and he won't be judged or compared because there aren't any expectations in the first place. The second is to devise a plan to change the status quo and restore the CPM's national relevance. In that case, his will be the toughest political assignment in contemporary India. Despite his seniority and experience, Baby had been virtually sidelined in Kerala politics in the last few years. This is a lifeline for the communist veteran and a chance to rewrite his story.

FREQUENT OUTAGES: UPI NEEDS SHORING UP

THE recent disruptions in India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) system call attention to a growing concern over the reliability of a platform that has become the backbone of the country's digital economy. With three major outages in just three weeks—on March 26, April 1, and the latest on Saturday—the recurring failures have exposed vulnerabilities in a system that processes ₹25 lakh crore in monthly digital transactions and accounts for 50 percent of global real-time payments. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), responsible for operating the UPI infrastructure, has yet to explain the repeated disruptions comprehensively. The only clarification came after the April 1 outage, when the NPCI attributed the problem to a surge in transaction volumes related to quarter-end and year-end activities. Users across various platforms and banks faced difficulties completing transactions during these outages, causing significant inconvenience. With a large segment of the population now heavily reliant on digital payments and carrying minimal cash, these intermittent failures have had a tangible impact on daily life. The recurring glitches impact the popularity and trust associated with the UPI system. While the NPCI has remained largely silent on the underlying causes, the frequency of these failures suggests potential vulnerabilities within the system. Concerns are mounting regarding probable server overloads, the timing and communication of planned maintenance, or even the possibility of cybersecurity threats.

UPI's significance extends far beyond facilitating everyday transactions. It has been instrumental in driving financial inclusion across the country and has served as a platform for the government to launch numerous payment-related innovations, including credit disbursal to individuals and small businesses. The sheer scale of UPI's operations underscores the gravity of these outages. Its success has even led several other countries to adopt this innovative payment system. Given the high stakes and the widespread reliance on UPI, the authorities, including the NPCI and the Reserve Bank of India, must prioritise ensuring the seamless functioning of the system. Frequent glitches and a potential decline in transaction volume risk shaking public trust, potentially pushing users back toward cash transactions and reversing years of progress in digital adoption. UPI has evolved into the backbone of the country's financial system, and therefore, the authorities must remain vigilant against any systemic failures that could impair the country's digital leap forward.

QUICK TAKE

EAT, DONATE, DON'T WASTE

INDIA is yet to grasp the calamitous proportions of its food waste problem. Latest reports put the food waste at 74 million tonnes annually. That's ₹92,000 crore or under half the spend on PDS rations. The government passed two legislations to cope with it, but they don't help because food waste sources and categories aren't clearly defined, and food data is limited. That makes measuring and monitoring waste difficult—the basis for a national prevention and reduction strategy. The government has its task cut out. It must also offer tax incentives to businesses and the public to donate unsold or unused food products still fit for consumption to charities.

Trump's tariffs have caused global apprehensions. The order established through a controlled multilateral trading system has dissipated, and confidence is low

MULTILATERAL TARIFFS ARE THE ANSWER

K M CHANDRASEKHAR

Former Cabinet Secretary and author of *As Good as My Word: A Memoir*

SOURAV ROY

I have no pretensions of being an economist. I completed an honours course in economics at Delhi University, but that was half a century ago. By a quirk of fate, I spent nearly two decades dealing with foreign trade in various capacities with the Kerala Government and the Government of India. I am bewildered by Donald Trump's antics that threaten the very fabric of the global economy. He imposed tariffs, then kept them on hold when he found he was losing the game, yet continued with a 125 percent tariff on his most significant trading partner, China.

Trump is obviously very angry. He feels that the entire world, particularly China, has conspired to rob the US. To teach these 'rogues' and 'thieves' (he used the word 'thieves' repeatedly) a lesson, he decided to come down on them like a ton of bricks. He announced the imposition of what he calls "reciprocal tariffs" on all countries, with a minimum of 10 percent and a maximum yet to be determined. When China dared to challenge him and impose equal counter-tariffs, he raised the tariff on them to 125 percent.

I fail to understand how he deems these tariffs "reciprocal." A reciprocal tariff, or retaliatory tariff in WTO parlance, is intended to correct a wrong committed by a country that violates a multilaterally or jointly agreed tariff. In this case, all tariffs have been established multilaterally after several years of rigorous negotiations by all countries, including the US. What Trump means by "reciprocal tariffs" is that no country should dare to maintain a trade surplus with the US. For example, the US buys more goods from China than it sells to them — creating a goods deficit of $295 billion. The total value of goods the US imports from China is $440 billion. Dividing 295 by 440 results in 67 percent, and when divided by two, it leads to an imposed tariff of 34 percent on China. Similarly, a tariff is calculated for each country. Even when there is no surplus, the respective country must still pay a minimum tax of 10 percent, ostensibly to ensure Trump has adequate revenue to reduce income taxes.

To think that any surplus in the trade balance is on account of the other party cheating the US seems to be somewhat naive. The comparative advantage of countries determines trade flows globally, including the costs of production, which, by itself, is a reflection of the cost of raw materials and factors of production and technological advantage. Knowing this well, the US has long been a votary of free trade. The multilateral trading system slowly but surely moved towards it, considering the sensitivities of other countries, particularly developing and least-developed countries.

There seemed to be unexplained errors in calculation, too. For example, Switzerland exported goods worth $74 billion to the US and imported goods worth $25 billion in 2024, resulting in a difference of $49 billion. Out of this deficit, $35 billion is on pharmaceuticals, which is totally exempt. Hence, according to Trump's formula, the tariff on them should have been $14 billion divided by $25 billion, yielding a tariff figure of about 25 percent after applying Trump's discount factor. Yet American importers would have had to pay a 31 percent tariff on Swiss chocolate, cheese and watches.

I suspect that Trump pressured his officials to expedite the process so he could announce it on April 2. Consequently, they had to conduct a hasty and poorly executed analysis that was challenging to justify logically in every instance. They covered their shortcomings by stating that the imposed tariff is a mix of tariff barriers, non-tariff barriers, currency manipulation, and other factors. The US is dealing with independent countries, not subordinate states or colonies. The methodology behind these calculations should be transparent.

I also struggle to understand his motivations. This is not the first time he has manipulated tariffs; they are one of his preferred tools. On his social media platform, TruthSocial, he stated, "Someday, people will realise that TARIFFS, for the United States of America, is a very beautiful thing." This is also not the first instance he has engaged in this practice. During his first term in 2018, he imposed tariffs on steel, aluminium, washing machines, and solar panels in six waves. Scholars have studied this and concluded that nearly the entire burden of these tariff increases was borne by American consumers, leading to a reduction in real income and welfare. As inflation rises in response to tariffs on nearly all items, monetary measures will be imperative to restore order in the economy. This will also affect the dollar, making it an unstable currency and resulting in the very outcome that Trump does not want: the decline of dollar-denominated global trade.

The wild fluctuations of the Nasdaq and Dow indices and the panic in global stock markets in the days following Trump's announcement indicate significant apprehension in the US and worldwide. Not only stock prices but also the values of gold and oil fell sharply. The order established through a controlled multilateral trading system has dissipated, and confidence is at a low ebb. Even informed American consumers are alarmed, recalling the financial bloodbath during the Great Depression, which also began with a major stock market crash in October 1929. Trump urged his supporters to be brave but ultimately seems to have realised that the whole world will not bow to him in obeisance.

The imposition of multiple tariffs disrupted the comparative advantages in trade that certain countries enjoyed vis-a-vis one another. For instance, while India may have gained advantages over Bangladesh, Pakistan, and China in exporting textiles and garments, it may find itself at a disadvantage compared to Ecuador in exporting marine products to the US. Even this comparative advantage may not be realised immediately due to capacity constraints. Besides, all these relative advantages may change after negotiations. Hence, the present situation is still fluid, not final or certain.

Thus, Trump's irrational behaviour threatens the whole world, particularly the United States. This is an occasion for all the countries in the world to band together in the WTO and restore the sanctity of multilaterally agreed tariffs and the power of the agreed dispute settlement mechanism to enforce it.

(Views are personal)
(kmchandrasekhar@gmail.com)

AWAKENED BY A SLAP: A CHILD'S FIRST BRUSH WITH CASTE

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

THE two fault lines in Hinduism are caste and gender. Speaking from within the faith—and not at all as an outsider with a hostile agenda—I would like to share a few personal observations on how this widely affects us as a society, of whatever creed. It is no secret that other faiths also have hierarchies, though that's rarely discussed, unlike those of the majority.

My first memory of life is a tight slap on the face at four. My father's elder sister slapped me. My mother and father said nothing, their faces impassive. The reason for the slap? Without knowing the meaning, I had called our cleaning lady a "*shudrachi*", a term picked up from our cook. "Never say that again," said my aunt into the silence. Trained already in appropriate responses, it seems I said "sorry" in a small voice and returned to my toys. We lived in Calcutta in those days. The next day, my mother bought a train ticket back to Madras for the cook and fired him as a bad influence on her household.

Children innocently pick up wrong words from their family and environment. So, wouldn't you agree that it absolutely behoves us, as responsible citizens—young or old—to refrain from using derogatory terms or hate speech, which perpetuates negativity? If we truly follow the tenets of the Hindu faith, which exalts Mahavishnu as all-pervasive and present in every being, we would respect everyone's right to dignity and polite behaviour, would we not? My grandmother and my mother told me, in particular, to always speak gently and affectionately to eunuchs and transgender people. So, I was never afraid of them, and they, too, gave such lovely blessings. My mother also taught me by example not to serve house-help in separate cups and plates. It's rude—and absurd, given how we commonly eat out and order in.

Schooled by my elders that politeness was non-negotiable, I was startled recently by 'Bablu of Jaunpur', my building manager, who hails from eastern Uttar Pradesh. He said in Hindi, "Everyone laughs at you because you say Namaste even to the *dhobi* (the press-wala), the sweeper, the *mali* (gardener), and the vegetable man."

"What's so funny?" I asked, surprised. "Have you no sense of being a *memsahib*?" he asked scornfully. "No, this is a democracy," I said, wholly taken aback but sure of my stand. I thought over his peculiar statement. If I were such a figure of fun, my *dhobi* and his wife would not smile sweetly and greet me back. Nor would my little pet, their daughter Sona, shyly disclose that she'd gone to Class Three, or Madhu, her mother, proudly tell me that Sona had come first in class.

PEXELS

> My first memory of life is a tight slap on the face at four. I had called our cleaning lady a "*shudrachi*", a term picked up from our cook. Children innocently pick up wrong words. We must refrain from using such derogatory terms, which perpetuate negativity

My Sunday gardener, Badri, would not, unasked, bring me plants that I fancied but didn't have—like lemon grass and poppies. Nor would he and his little boy, Vaibhav, bring me *boondi* as Tuesday *prasad* from the Hanuman temple he visits when free from his day job as a gardener in a big hotel. So, I put down Bablu's extraordinary remark on the mores of the feudal society he obviously comes from. When that mindset will change is anybody's guess, and I suddenly felt quite tired of it all. I had had caste slapped out of me as an ignorant child—but how can one person take responsibility for 1.4 billion people? One can only work on one's own mindset and its consequent behaviour.

The other fault line in our society—gender—is, hopefully, being steadily erased. Here, I must express my profound gratitude to all the enlightened Hindu fathers who let their girls out of the box to study, travel, and work—bravely opposing the orthodox people around them and the usual objection of "What will people say?" A hundred years ago, I would have led a stunted life as an Indian woman, whereas today, I rejoice in several important freedoms, thanks to Hindu reform—secure in the knowledge that the law of the land is firmly on the side of Indian women of all creeds. I would earnestly urge the various patriarchies not to straggle behind the law and the Constitution's *marg darshan* (vision of the path) because this change, too, is unstoppable.

I think the caste system also explains why Indians largely lack civic sense. For centuries, people have thrown rubbish where they pleased because it was always somebody else's job to remove it. It would be a giant leap for Indians if we started owning our rubbish and taking responsibility for its correct disposal. The government may talk itself hoarse about Swachh Bharat, but unless we truly participate in it, we will continue to be mocked by the whole world for how dirty we are. I say this with apologies to all the conscientious citizens who dispose of their garbage properly and teach their young not to litter.

Visiting a place like Bali—physically and culturally similar to India—breaks your heart because you see how beautiful India would look if we all kept our motherland clean. At best, we can urge our law enforcers and civic bodies to hold the mess-makers sternly accountable so that they mend their ways. It is so heartening to see videos of the clean places in our North-East or read that Indore is rated as the cleanest city, and beaches in Odisha are top-rated as litter-free. Let's hope that we all catch up soon with positive change.

(Views are personal)
(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Change needed

Ref: *Congress: Sankalp without strategy* (Apr 13). The column is a sharp analysis of the grand old party's current situation. While the BJP tries to unite, the Congress aims to create divisions. Its successes in Karnataka and Telangana were driven by vote-buying sops, not the Gandhis' charisma. The Gandhis should step aside and let in fresh talent.
H S Gopal, Bengaluru

Take action

Ref: *Human rights in new era of dog love* (Apr 13). Incidents of stray dog bites and maulings, resulting in severe injuries and even fatalities among both children and adults, are alarmingly common across the country. The government and civil authorities must take immediate action, implementing sterilisation and vaccination programmes for stray dogs to reduce the risk of rabies.
N A Joseph, Ettumanoor

Big win

Ref: *Why Rana is a really big catch* (Apr 13). Rana's extradition is, without doubt, a major victory for India. It has dealt a significant blow to Pakistan, which now fears that the truth about its links to terror groups will come to light. It goes a long way in the road to justice for 26/11 victims and their kin.
Ravi Nair, Kollengode

Sorry state

Ref: *Not a single candidate qualifies for HC exam on Higher Judicial Service cadre* (Apr 13). Of the 42 candidates who appeared for the Nainital High Court's exam for the higher judicial service, none was deemed eligible for the interview stage. This is a serious issue, highlighting the need for action to address the poor standards in law colleges.
M Haneef, Kottayam

Trade war

Ref: *Trump hails new tariffs as China hits back on US goods* (Apr 13).The US-China tariff war brings to mind an old saying: "When two elephants fight, the grass suffers". Though it is between the US and China, this trade war will have severe global consequences.
V Venkitasubramanian, Coimbatore

Joyful moment

Ref: *Olive Ridley hatchlings begin seaward journey from rookery at Rushikulya* (Apr 12). At Rushikulya, Odisha, the mama turtles have laid a record number of eggs. The most joyful moment was witnessing their offsprings' journey from the rookery to the sea. Rushikulya bids them farewell for now, welcoming their return and ensuring the preservation of its biodiversity for future generations.
Nabnit Panigrahi, Odisha

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **Santwana Bhattacharya**

Published by **R K Jhunjhunwala** on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, at No. 1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 and printed by him at Express Press, Plot No. 2A, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Survey No. 46, Part Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Bengaluru - 560 099. **Bengaluru.** Vol. 61, No. 88 RNI Reg. No. 3457/1960. Phone: 080-22866893. **Copyright:** Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.

POSTS OF THE DAY

Jagat Prakash Nadda @JPNadda
The Massacre is living symbol of the cruelty & barbarity of British rule. The martyrs who made supreme sacrifice at Jallianwala Bagh will always remain in our memories

Jairam Ramesh @Jairam_Ramesh
The govt earned ₹39.54L cr from petroleum in last 11 yrs... Crude oil was $108/barrel in May 2014, today it is $65.31, yet petrol and diesel prices are higher than during UPA!

Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
The PDA ('pichde', Dalit, Adivasi) are well aware of the government's pressure behind the administration's audacity to remove Baba Saheb's statue in Lucknow

● Ruling on discretionary powers not a transgression of Article 200 ● 'Centre's views not presented adequately'

Fixing deadline for Guvs not judicial overreach: SC

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY
@ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court, in its April 8 verdict, held that although it has fixed a timeline for Governors to give their assent or recommendations to bills passed by state assemblies, its directive did not amount to "judicial overreach".

Pronouncing its order on the Tamil Nadu government's plea against Governor R N Ravi for "sitting on" several bills passed by the Assembly, the Supreme Court noted that if the Governor withholds assent contrary to the advice of the Council of Ministers, he must return the bill, along with his recommendations, within a maximum period of three months.

If the Governor reserves the bill for the President's consideration, he shall do so within a maximum period of three months. If a bill is presented after reconsideration, the Governor must grant assent forthwith, within a maximum period of one month.

The top court asserted that these timelines set on the discretionary powers of governors do not amount to a transgression of Article 200 of the Constitution or its framework but ensure that they are not rendered ineffective through indefinite delays.

Prescription of a time limit is with view to ensure that the Governor is not conferred with the power of exercising a pocket veto under the scheme of Article 200, and hinder the law-making process in the State without any reasonable ground — Supreme Court

"The prescription of a time limit is to ensure that the Governor is not conferred with the power of exercising a pocket veto under the scheme ofArticle 200, and hinder the law-making process in the State without any reasonable ground," the court held.

Citing examples of laws in the US and Pakistan, the apex court said the Governor, in the exercise of his functions under Article 200, is required to abide by the aid and advice tendered by the Council of Ministers.

The court said it's crucial to understand that the court's prescription of a time limit, within which the ordinary exercise of power by the Governor under Article 200 must take place, is not the same as amending the Constitution's framework.

"The reason why these timelines do not immolate the very fabric of Article 200 is because the said provision... still remains markedly different fromcounterpart provisions where such time limits are legislatively prescribed," the SC said.

Only in instances where the Governor is required to act in his discretion would he be justified in exercising powers under Article 200 contrary to the advice of the Council of Ministers. The SC held that any exercise of discretion by the Governor under Article 200 is subject to judicial review.

MHA mulls review plea as verdict sets timeline for Prez

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

IN view of certain 'infirmities' in the points of law with regard to the April 8 Supreme Court verdict in the Tamil Nadu government v Governor R N Ravi case, mandating a timeline for Governors and the President in matters of assent and recommendations to bills, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is preparing to file a review petition to get them corrected, officials said on Sunday.

Officials said the move is being contemplated owing to the fact that the top court order also fixed a timeline of three months for the President to take decisions with regard to bills referred to the Rashtrapati Bhawan by Governors. In matters of reference, the MHA is the nodal authority that processes and conveys the decisions to the state, they added.

Incidentally, the SC order also makes way for 'lapsed bills' to be restored, they said, adding that under provision, such lapsed bills need to be restored only by reintroducing them in state assemblies with or without the amendments recommended while the same is returned by the President.

When the President withholds assent to a bill, the same is treated as lapsed.

Officials also argued that the review petition has been necessitated also on the count that during the course of arguments, the views of the Union government could not be presented adequately.

The judicial intervention in the matter came following a plea by the Tamil Nadu government against the Governor's decision to indefinitely withhold assent to 10 bills passed by the Assembly, some as early as 2020.

The Tamil Nadu government on Saturday reportedly notified the 10 said laws in its gazette following the SC verdict, which the state noted as "deemed" to have received assent.

THE LANDMARK RULING

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY
@ New Delhi

IN a landmark judgment on April 8, 2025, the Supreme Court deemed Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi's refusal to assent to 10 state bills as illegal and unconstitutional. The verdict, delivered by Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice R Mahadevan, came in response to a writ petition filed by the Tamil Nadu government challenging the Governor's prolonged inaction on important bills.

EXPLAINER

The case...

The case stemmed from a prolonged standoff between the DMK-led Tamil Nadu government and Governor RN Ravi. Between November 2020 and April 2023, the state legislature passed 13 bills, of which 10 were either withheld or sent back to the Assembly by the Governor without any communication. When the legislature re-approved the bills without any material changes, Governor Ravi still did not assent to the bills; reserving them for the President's consideration, which the court found unconstitutional.

The Constitution says...

Under Article 200 of the Constitution, when a bill is passed by state legislature, the Governor has four options:
- Assent to the bill
- Withhold assent
- Return the bill (not a money bill) for reconsideration
- Reserve the bill for the President's consideration

However, the Article does not prescribe a timeline, allowing room for ambiguity. The Supreme Court clarified that this cannot be interpreted to allow indefinite delays or misuse of discretionary powers.

What the top court ruled?

The Supreme Court held that the Governor's actions were not only deliberately obstructive but also violated constitutional procedure. The court said the Governor lacked 'bonafide' (good faith) in his actions and failed to respect the Constitution and the authority of court.

It is not up to the Governor to reserve a bill for the President after the Assembly has passed the legislature for a second time without any changes. The Constitution, in the phrase "shall not withhold assent," mandates that the Governor must assent to such bills, the SC held, asserting that the conduct of Governor Ravi went against the very principles of parliamentary democracy.

Timelines for Governors

The Supreme Court laid down time-bound guidelines for Governors under Article 200:

- **Assent or reservation (on advice of Council of Ministers):** Within 1 month
- **Withholding assent (against Council's advice):** Must return with message within 3 months
- **Reservation (against advice):** Must within 3 months
- **Post-reconsideration assent:** Must be given within 1 month

Why the order doesn't amount to judicial overreach?

The Supreme Court affirmed that its direction stipulating a timeline for Governors was not a transgression on part of judiciary, but a necessary interpretation to uphold the spirit of the Constitution and prevent misuse of discretionary powers.

"The prescription of a time limit within which the ordinary exercise of power by the Governor under Article 200 must take place, is not the same thing as amending the Constitution."

The court emphasised that these timelines do not alter Article 200 or its framework but rather ensure it is not rendered ineffective by indefinite delays.

The reasons cited by SC?

The court cited three crucial reasons to justify its decision:
- **No Distortion of Constitutional Procedure**

The time limit does not alter the procedural aspects laid out in Article 200. Instead, they provide structure and accountability to ensure the process happens in a reasonable, timely manner. Far from disrupting the constitutional design, this interpretation supports effective implementation.
- **Reinforcing Constitutional Urgency**

The direction to act within specific timeframes aligns with the urgency associated with the legislative processes. By putting a check on delays, the court has ensured that the Governor's role remains functional and relevant, rather than becoming an obstacle to governance.
- **Avoiding Automatic Consequences**

Importantly, the Court did not introduce a mechanism of deemed assent—where the Governor's inaction would automatically result in approval. The judgment leaves room for genuine delays to be justified, ensuring that the timeline isn't a 'hanging sword' over the Governor. Instead, if delays occur, the courts can step in and assess whether those were reasonable.

The President's role

The court also addressed the President's role under Article 201, which governs the assent of bills reserved by Governors. The SC ruled that even the President cannot delay decisions indefinitely and that such inaction is open to judicial scrutiny. Moreover, invoking Article 143, the Court stated if a bill is reserved on grounds of unconstitutionality, the President "ought to" seek the Supreme Court's opinion—though not mandatory, such a reference holds high persuasive value.

Reiterating Governor's role

The Supreme Court reaffirmed that the Governor is not meant to act as a political agent but as a constitutional figurehead: "He must be the harbinger of consensus and resolution... a catalyst and not an inhibitor."

INSIDER TRACK

3 IPS officers key in Rana extradition

Besides deft diplomatic manoeuvrings, two Jharkhand cadre IPS officers played critical roles in the extradition of 26/11 mastermind Tahawwur Rana from the United States, carrying out the operation without a glitch. Ashish Batra, an IPS officer of the 1997 batch and an Inspector General (IG) in the NIA, led the Indian team to whom the Americans handed over Rana. Jaya Roy, also from the Jharkhand cadre of 2011, assisted Batra. Jaya is a Deputy Inspector General and the NIA's Senior Public Relations Officer. Many in the NIA believe her presence gave the Indian team strength at the legal and media management levels. Prabhat Kumar, an IPS from the 2019 batch of Chattisgarh cadre, also played a critical role. He took the custody of Rana in the US and coordinated the entire security drill from Delhi Airport to Tihar Jail.

'24-batch officers head to Manipur

Ethnic violence-hit Manipur has received the highest-ever number of allocations of Indian Police Service (IPS) officers. The Centre has deputed 16 2024 batch officers, recently inducted into service, to the state. Many in the North Block believe the government's move is an attempt to stabilise the situation in the troubled state. The step aims to strengthen the administrative machinery and improve policing and intelligence coordination in Manipur, which has experienced intermittent violence for the past two years.

Enduring bonds, lasting memories

Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the UAE, paid his first official visit to India on April 8-9. The Crown Prince presented Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a symbolic gift: a replica of the bisht (a traditional embroidered cloak worn over the kandura) his grandfather, His Highness Sheikh Rashid, wore. The gesture reflects the deep-rooted and historic ties between the UAE and India, spanning generations of political friendship. In a further tribute to shared history, the Crown Prince also gifted an original newspaper featuring coverage of a pivotal event from August 1984. It highlighted the heroic role played by his father, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, then UAE Minister of Defence and now the Ruler of Dubai, in the rescue operation of Indian Airlines Flight 421. On August 24, 1984, seven members of the banned All India Sikh Students Federation hijacked Indian Airlines Flight 421, a Boeing 737-2A8, carrying 74 passengers. En route from Delhi to Srinagar, the plane was diverted first to Lahore, then to Karachi, and finally to Dubai. In Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed successfully negotiated the safe release of all passengers and secured the peaceful surrender of the hijackers to UAE authorities—an act hailed as key in the UAE-India cooperation.

Chandigarh DGP appointed DIG BSF

In an unprecedented move, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has recently transferred Chandigarh's officiating Director General of Police (DGP), Surendra Singh Yadav. The 1997 batch IPS officer of the AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territories) cadre has gone to the Border Security Force (BSF) as a Deputy Inspector General (DIG). Yadav's reassignment is considered a demotion in rank. It reflects the Centre's dominance in postings and appointments of IPS officers. Officials in the MHA are of the view that with the appointment of Yadav, the Centre has sent a message to other IPS officers in different states at the Additional Director General (ADG) or Inspector General (IG) rank and are still not empanelled at the central level. The exercise requires 360-degree vigilance clearance. Within the police hierarchy, a DIG is significantly junior compared to a DGP.

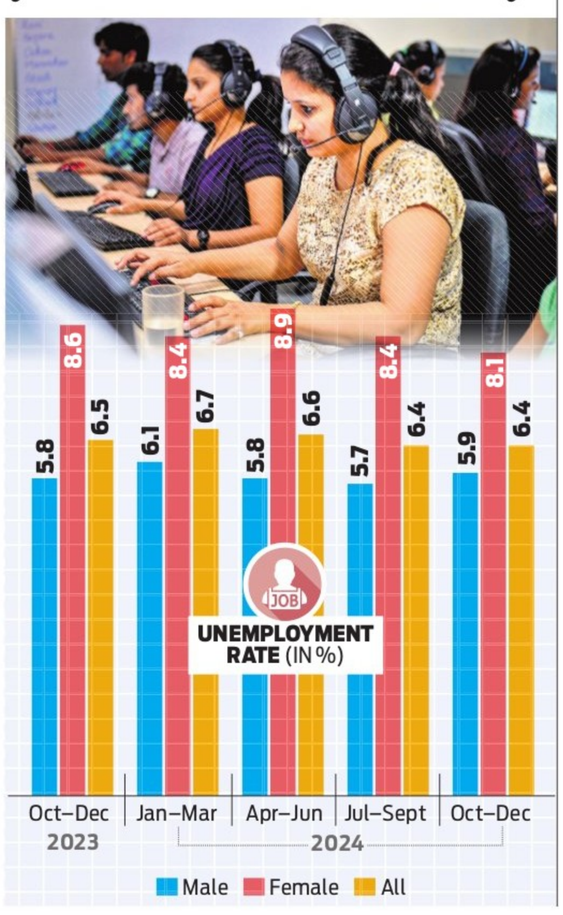
Women unemployment down: Survey

VISMAY BASU @ New Delhi

THE recent Quarterly Bulletin of Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) published in February depicts a minor increase in urban male unemployment in the third quarter (October to December) of 2024 when compared to the data from the corresponding period of the previous year. This increase in unemployment, however, is compensated in the overall scenario by a commendable rise in the employment rate among women. This reduced rate of women's unemployment has impacted the overall rate of unemployment.

The report also detailed state-wise disaggregation of the unemployment data based on current weekly status. Gujarat was the state with the lowest level of unemployment (3%) and former Jammu and Kashmir (UT of J&K and UT of Ladakh) recorded the highest rate of unemployment with 13.1%. This sample survey was conducted between October and December 2024 canvassing 5,742 blocks covering 45,074 households and 1,70,487 individuals across the country.

The PLFS, conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation every year, defines unemployment in Current Weekly Status (CWS), according to which a person is considered unemployed in a week if they did not work even for an hour on any day during the reference week but sought or was available for work for at least an hour during the period.



Solar power for village where jawan died in ops

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

IN a tribute to Colonel Santosh Mahadik, Shaurya Chakra, the Indian Army has launched a solar electrification and LPG distribution initiative in Simari, a remote border village near Tithwal in Kashmir's Karnah Valley. Simari falls in Kupwara district where Col Mahadik laid down his life battling terrorists in November 2015.

"In a fitting tribute to this extraordinary soldier, the Indian Army, under Operation Sadbhavana and in collaboration with the Pune-based NGO Aseem Foundation, has initiated a comprehensive solar electrification and LPG distribution project in the village," an Army officer said on condition of anonymity.

"Col Mahadik was known not only for his exceptional bravery and leadership on the battlefield but also for his deep empathy and commitment to local communities," he added.

Simari has long been defined by its isolation. The village, one half of which lies in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, holds deep strategic and democratic importance as India's polling booth number 1.

The Army officer said that before the initiative, the villagers faced hardships, with their lives affected by frequent power outages and a dependence on kerosene lamps and firewood. "Daily activities, especially children's education and women's household chores, were routinely disrupted due to inadequate lighting and energy supplies. Recognising these challenges, the Indian Army conceptualised a sustainable solution to empower the community through renewable energy and clean cooking solutions," the officer said.

The project has electrified all 53 homes in the village using solar energy organised into four micro-grid clusters, each equipped with state-of-the-art solar panels, batteries, inverters, and essential electrical infrastructure.

"Homes now shine brightly with LED lights, power sockets, and safety mechanisms, dramatically improving the quality of life. Additionally, every household received LPG connections, including double-burner stoves, regulators, and safety hoses, significantly reducing health risks associated with indoor smoke and greatly benefiting the environment," the officer said.

India, 9 African nations begin naval exercise

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

THE inaugural edition of the large-scale multilateral naval exercise, Africa India Key Maritime Engagement, (AIKEYME), kicked off on Sunday. The six-day exercise between April 13 and April 18 will see participation of Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles and South Africa, alongside the co-hosts India and Tanzania.

The exercise will be in two phases: harbor and sea. The harbour phase of the maiden initiative was jointly inaugurated by India and Tanzania in Dar-es-Salaam, officials said, adding that while India and Africa have been cooperating in tackling maritime security threats such as piracy, trafficking, and unregulated fishing, through sharing of resourses, the exercise is likely to significantly boost the cooperation.

REUNITED

The Border Security Force on Sunday said that a 50-year-old man, who was recently found wandering near the International Border in Akhnoor sector here, was reunited with his family.

2 KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENT IN UP's MUZAFFARNAGAR

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	41	26	Mumbai	34	27
Bhopal	37	23	Panaji	35	28
Jaipur	38	28	Patna	30	24
Amritsar	35	22	Lucknow	33	23
Chennai	33	29	Port Blair	30	26
Kolkata	32	25	Imphal	29	18
Srinagar	23	09	Chandigarh	34	22

■ CM warns rebels after paying tribute to slain jawan ■ FIR filed in Ranchi against 4 accused

Battle against Maoists in its last phase, says Soren

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

JHARKHAND CM Hemant Soren said on Sunday that the battle against the Maoists is in its last phase in the state. After paying floral tributes to the jawan of Jharkhand Jaguar who died during an anti-Maoist operation in Saranda jungles of Chaibasa, Soren told reporters, "The jawan's sacrifice will not go in vain and the operation against Maoists will achieve its final objective."

The jawan was killed and a Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) head constable seriously injured in an IED blast triggered by Maoists in the heavily forested border area between the Chotanagra and Jaraikela police stations in West Singhbhum on Saturday.

Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar also paid floral tributes to the mortal remains of slain jawan Sunil Dhan at Jaguar headquarters.

"Left-wing extremism was a big problem for the country, but due to the continuous action of security forces, the elimination of the threat now reached its final stage. Many of our soldiers have been martyred in the operation against the extremists, but their martyrdom will not go in vain," Soren said. "A handful of rebels, who are left, are trying to carry out such incidents in desperation, but they won't be successful. The operation against the Naxalites is continuously becoming stronger and the Maoists are now counting their last breaths," he added.

Governor Gangwar said, "The state government is continuously working to minimise Naxal incidents. The government will take care of the martyr's family.".

Several Maoist commanders are active with their squads in the Saranda forests of Chaibasa and have planted thousands of IEDs to prevent security forces from entering the jungles, due to which incidents of blasts are taking place during operations. Since November 2022, six security personnel have lost their lives while 20 were critically injured. Nearly 22 civilians were critically injured in IED blasts triggered by Maoists in the jungles of Chaibasa, police said.

According to Chaibasa SP, though Maoists have planted IEDs in the entire area, forces are advancing slowly into the jungles with determination and have established several temporary security camps in their core areas. The police have launched a joint operation in Kolhan jungles in November 2022 after a tip-off that some Maoist leaders, including Misir Besra and Patiram Majhi alias Anal Da, are hiding in the forest stretch.

IEDs planted to prevent forces from entering jungles

Several Maoist commanders are active with their squads in the Saranda forests of Chaibasa and have planted thousands of IEDs to prevent security forces from entering the jungles, due to which incidents of blasts are taking place during operations. Since November 2022, six security personnel have lost their lives while 20 were critically injured

Judge gets death threat, jailbreak warned to free Maoist leaders

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

A judge of the NIA court in Ranchi has received death threat in a letter while another letter warned of jailbreak to free the top Maoist leaders Prashant Bose and Sheela Marandi.

An FIR has been registered against four accused at Kotwali police station in Ranchi in this regard, police said.

Kotwali police station officer-in-charge Adikant Mahato said that as soon as he got the information, he reached the court where he found two envelopes sent by speed post. "It has been written in a letter that the shooters have been paid the money to attack the judge. It is mentioned in another letter that all preparations have been made to get Prashant Bose and Sheela Marandi out of jail," Mahato said, adding that a mobile number has been given in a letter.

"Investigation showed that the mobile number is registered in the name of Arun Kumar, an officer of Jharkhand Combined Entrance Competitive Examination Board," he said. Mahato said police have made Arun Kumar, Anamika Enterprises Pvt Ltd, one Saket Tirkey and an unknown person as accused in the FIR. Meanwhile, security of the court premises and the judge has been tightened.

Anti-Waqf protests turn violent in Assam's Silchar; cops resort to lathicharge

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

A rally against Waqf (Amendment) Act turned violent in Assam's Silchar town in Cachar district on Sunday.

The rally, taken out by Muslims from the Berenga area of the southern Assam town, was peaceful until some protestors pelted stones targeting police personnel after the latter attempted to disperse the crowd.

Carrying black flags, the protestors chanted slogans demanding the repeal of the Act.

A case was registered in connection with the incident. The police said nobody was detained or arrested yet.

Superintendent of Police Numal Mahatta said the procession was taken out without obtaining prior permission. He also said that the situation was now peaceful.

"Model code of conduct is enforced in view of panchayat elections. When information was received that a protest rally was taken out from the Berenga area, police personnel rushed to the place and tried to disperse the crowd," the SP said at a press conference.

On reports about stone-pelting by the protestors, he said attempts were made to target police personnel and they restored order by using minimal force. He warned of action against troublemakers.

After the incident, security was beefed up in the sensitive areas of the town.

The incident came just a day after Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had stated that Assam had not witnessed any untoward incident over the Waqf (Amendment) Act. He had also thanked the state's Muslim community.

"We had prior intelligence that yesterday, after Friday prayers, there could be large scale protests related to the Waqf Act. @assampolice worked extensively over the last 5 days. We spoke to minority leaders and ensured that there was no incident of violence in Assam," he had posted on X on Saturday.

Earlier, Manipur and Tripura witnessed violent protests against the Act. A mob of 7,000 to 8,000 people had attacked the house of BJP's Manipur Minority Morcha president Askar Ali, setting it on fire. The protestors in Tripura on Saturday clashed with the police. Six to seven personnel were injured.

AHMEDABAD DIARY

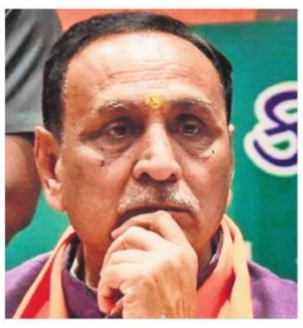
DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA

Our correspondent in Gujarat

dilipsingh@newindianexpress.com

Rupani's rise to national politics on the cards

There are rumours on the grapevine that former Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani is set for a national political leap. A seasoned strategist, Rupani has flexed his organisational prowess not just in Gujarat but also as the saffron party's point man in Punjab and other states. A party loyalist, he took over the reins of the state from Anandiben Patel in 2016 and steered the government for over five years — an era marked by administrative continuity and political stability. It's not hard to guess why the BJP high command is considering him for a high-stakes national role. Rupani's rise could recalibrate the party's national game plan, blending local connect with able leadership.



Police dept set for massive shake-up

The state police department is plagued by a mounting administrative logjam as those holding key posts, including the Additional Chief Secretary (Home), have been given additional charges. The result? A visible strain on law and order across the state. Nearly 15 SP-level officers are still awaiting official postings, and five recently promoted DIGs are in limbo. The Secretariat is abuzz with chatter that a long-overdue shake-up in police could soon turn into a full-blown "transfer yatra". With crucial units like the IB and Crime Branch running on empty, the need for timely appointments is being felt more strongly than ever before.

Patil sounds the poll bugle at event in Surat

Union Minister and BJP leader CR Patil sounded the poll bugle at a Bihar Day event in Surat, declaring, "156 in Gujarat. And now 200+ in Bihar." In a fiery speech, he blamed all of the state's woes on the caste politics that have dominated the public discourse for long. "Caste keeps Bihar sick," he stressed. He declared that Naxalism was dead and that it was time to turn a fresh page. In a bid to bolster the saffron party's base in the state, Patil promised to join Chhath Puja and tied it to the party's campaign: "I'll celebrate Chhath — and victory." He also announced a special Surat-Bihar train for devotees to ensure a smooth experience for them.

Pact with dairy board will double milk collection in MP co-op sector: Shah

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

THE National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and the MP Dairy Federation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Bhopal on Sunday, in the presence of Union Minister for Cooperation Amit Shah and Chief Minister Mohan Yadav. This agreement aims to expand, diversify, and modernize the cooperative dairy sector in Madhya Pradesh.

Addressing the state-level cooperatives conference thereafter, Shah said, "The MoU between the NDDB and the state dairy federation targets doubling milk collection by the state cooperative sector from the current 12 lakh litres to 24 lakh litres."

"MP produces 5.5 crore litres of milk, which accounts for 9% of the country's total milk output. However, less than 1% of milk comes from dairy cooperatives.

Even when it comes to surplus or marketable milk, which is left after domestic consumption, only 2.5% of 3.50 crore litres comes from dairy cooperatives. Only 17% of villages in MP have milk collection facilities. The MoU has created scope for increasing dairy cooperatives penetration to the remaining 83% villages," Shah said.

Without naming the Congress regimes in the past at the Centre, Shah said that the cooperative movement had "almost died" in many states, as the existing laws remained unchanged to keep in sync with changing times. Seventy-five years after the country's independence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi created a separate ministry for cooperation (cooperatives) at the centre. "In 3.5 years, we've worked to usher sea change, particularly by framing model bylaws to foster the growth of primary cooperative societies."

BIHAR POLLS

NDA cracks out as Manjhi party seeks 40 seats

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

INTERNAL bickering over seat-sharing within NDA surfaced after union minister and Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) patron Jitan Ram Manjhi on Sunday contended that his party would contest at least 35-40 seats in upcoming Bihar assembly elections.

Speaking at a public meeting in Purnea, Manjhi, who is also an MP representing the Gaya Lok Sabha seat, declared that HAM, an ally of ruling NDA both in the state and at the Centre, would contest 35-40 seats. "We will have at least 20 MLAs in the 243-member Assembly," the former CM said.

Manjhi named Rajenera Yadav as HAM candidate for the Kasba assembly seat. In addition, he announced the formation of 'HAM Sena' to strengthen the organisation at grassroots level before the elections, which are set to take place in October-November.

He expessed concerns about his party being continuously sidelined. "It feels as if we are not part of the NDA," over poor representation of HAM in govt-run organisations.

Bajwa booked after claim on '50 bombs' sparks row

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

A political controversy has erupted following **Partap Singh Bajwa**'s claim that 50 hand grenades had entered the state. The Leader of the Opposition stated that 18 of these grenades were used in explosions, while the whereabouts of the remaining 32 were unknown. Police booked Bajwa on various charges, including for spreading misleading information that endangers country's sovereignty and unity, late at night.

His assertion also prompted a strong reaction from Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, who questioned, "Does he have links with Pakistan?" Mann questioned Bajwa on the source of this information. "Does Bajwa have any connection with Pakistan that the terrorists are calling him to inform him how many bombs they have sent?" he wondered.

If his aim is to spread terror, then the Congress should expel him because he is working against the country and standing with anti-national forces, Mann further said.

He said that this information was not known to the Intelligence or the Union Government, but if it had come to the Leader of Opposition, then it was his responsibility to inform the Punjab Police.

Bajwa had claimed, "I have come to know that 50 bombs have reached Punjab. Of this, 18 have exploded, 32 are yet to go off."

The AIG told media that the police questioned the LOP since his claim was a matter of national security. Meanwhile, on the CM's direction, a Punjab Police team led by AIG Ravjot Kaur Grewal reached Bajwa's Sector 8 residence and questioned him. And he was later booked for the remark.

Two operatives of terror module held with IED

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

PUNJAB Police has averted a possible targeted terror attack in the border state by busting a terror module being operated by Germany-based Gurpreet Singh, alias Goldy Dhillon, with the arrest of its two key operatives.

A 2.8 kg IED containing 1.6 Kg RDX along with a remote control was seized from them. DGP Gaurav Yadav said on Sunday that the operation was conducted jointly by teams of Counter Intelligence Ferozepur and State Special Operating cell, SAS Nagar. The arrested have been identified as Jagga Singh and Manjinder Singh, residents of District Fatehgarh Sahib. The two were previously involved in multiple narcotics-related cases. Yadav said NIA has declared ₹10 lakh reward on Dhillon, a key operative of Goldy Brar-Lawrence Bishnoi gang.

Silkyara Tunnel set for breakthrough on April 16

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

THE Silkyara Tunnel on the Yamunotri Highway, a crucial part of the Char Dham Yatra route, is set for a breakthrough on April 16. According to officials privy to the matter, only three metres of the tunnel are left to be cleared.

"Preparations are under way for a ceremony to commemorate this milestone. Both CM Pushkar Singh Dhami and Union Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari are slated to attend the event," said an official.

The executing agency has, however, clarified that significant work needs to be done before the Yamunotri Highway tunnel is open to traffic. According to the agency, even after the tunnel becomes passable, another year will be dedicated to installing the necessary modern infrastructure.

"Following the breakthrough, it will take approximately one year to equip the tunnel with modern facilities, such as benching, inverts, final lining, and a central wall, along with soil removal," a spokesperson for the executing agency stated, adding, "Only after this extensive work will the tunnel be opened for traffic flow."

This timeline indicates that while the breakthrough on April 16 marks a crucial step, commuters and pilgrims using the Char Dham route will need to wait longer before experiencing the full benefits of the tunnelised section of the highway.

The Silkyara-Polgaon tunnel, approximately 4.5 km in length, was launched in 2018–19 with a budget of ₹853.79 crore. It may be recalled that a harrowing cave-in had trapped 41 construction workers for 17 days in November 2023. The construction work was resumed after two months in January 2024. The project is a part of the Narendra Modi government's Char Dham road project aimed at improving connectivity to pilgrimage sites in Uttarakhand.

Seventeen months after the Silkyara Tunnel collapse, last Monday, Col Deepak Patil, former General Manager (Project) at NHIDCL, emphasised the importance of tunnels in disaster-prone regions. Addressing officials at the R S Tolia Uttarakhand Academy of Administration's Disaster Management cell in Nainital virtually, Col Patil noted, "Tunnels can serve as a lifeline in disaster-prone regions, providing a safe and reliable means of transportation."

He also warned about the potential dangers of constructing multi-storey buildings in such areas. In his 150-minute virtual address, Col Patil reiterated that tunnels are vital in Himalayan infrastructure. He urged that tunnels should get priority in road projects to minimise environmental damage. He further cautioned against river-path routes.

J&K cracks down on drug peddlers; 2,800 held in 1,978 cases in 15 months

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

AS J&K continues to grapple with the menace of drug abuse, authorities in the union territory have revealed that an alarming 1,978 drug-related cases have been registered in the last 15 months alone and over 2,800 persons have been held in connection with them.

This is part of a larger crackdown on drug traffickers and suppliers aimed at dismantling the nexus. Notably, drug abuse has picked up in J&K over the last few years. About 14.09 lakh persons in J&K are affected by substance abuse, including addiction to alcohol, cannabis, opioids and inhalants. About 1,514 cases were registered in 2024, and 2,260 arrests and 274 detentions were made under the NDPS Act.

And the first quarter of this year (January–March 2025) witnessed 464 cases and 637 arrests and 76 detentions related to them. The authorities have seized the properties of drug dealers worth ₹12 crore in connection with the 31 cases that involved narcotics in commercial quantities. Besides, the law enforcement authorities destroyed poppy crops on 273 acres of land and cannabis on 1,642 acres of land in 2023–24.

NARCO MENACE

1. About 1,514 cases were registered in 2024 and 2,260 arrests and 274 detentions were made under the NDPS Act
2. The first quarter of this year (January–March 2025) witnessed 464 cases and 637 arrests and 76 detentions related to them

As far as accountability is concerned, 27 departmental inquiries were initiated in 2024 against IOs, resulting in 16 punishments, including censures and withheld increments.

DGP Nalin Prabhat has stressed the need to adopt a "whole of government" approach to successfully defeat this social evil. The law enforcement agencies, he said, cannot tackle the issue without public support or assistance from other government departments.

Meanwhile, the Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) Kashmir has deployed a highly trained dog squad to combat the menace in the Valley. "The newly inducted sniffer dog Safa, trained in advanced narcotics detection, will play a pivotal role in identifying and locating illegal drugs," a police official said.

55,000 attend Serbian president's nationalist rally: NGO

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	24	13	SNY	Los Angeles	28	14	LC
Colombo	33	26	LC	Melbourne	27	15	SNY
Dhaka	35	25	SNY	Moscow	1	-2	LR
Dubai	31	23	SNY	New York	8	5	SNY
Houston	27	16	LC	Singapore	31	25	LR
Istanbul	11	5	LR	Toronto	4	1	LC
London	15	6	SNY	Washington	12	7	SNY

Bodies of the killed residents lie on the ground following a Russia's missile attack that killed at least 34 civilians in Sumy, Ukraine | AP

Over 30 killed, 117 injured in Russian attack in Sumy

Two ballistic missiles hit city around 10.15 am during Palm Sunday

KYIV

AT least 34 people have been killed in a Russian missile strike on the Ukrainian city of Sumy on Sunday, officials said. Two ballistic missiles struck the heart of the city at around 10.15 am as people gathered to celebrate Palm Sunday, according to officials. Images posted from the scene on official channels showed lines of black body bags lying on the side of the road, while more bodies were seen wrapped in foil blankets among the debris. Video footage also showed fire crews as they fought to extinguish the shells of burned-out cars among the rubble from damaged buildings.

"On this bright Palm Sunday, our community has suffered a terrible tragedy," acting Mayor Artem Kobzar said in a statement on social media. "Unfortunately, we already know of more than 20 deaths."

At least 34 people were killed as a result of the attack, including two children, the State Emergency Service of Ukraine said in a statement. A further 117 people were injured, including 10 children, it said.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy confirmed that rescue efforts were ongoing and said "dozens" had been killed in the double missile attack.

"According to preliminary information, dozens of civilians were killed and wounded. Only filthy scum can act like this — taking the lives of ordinary people," he said. The head of the Ukrainian president's office, Andriy Yermak, said that the strike had also used cluster munitions in an attempt to kill as many people as possible. The Associated Press was unable to verify the claim. The attack on Sumy is the second large-scale attack to claim civilian lives in just over a week, following a deadly missile strike on Zelenskyy's hometown of Kryvyi Rih on April 4 that killed some 20 people, including nine children. Zelenskyy also called for a global response to the attack. "Talks have never stopped ballistic missiles and aerial bombs. What's needed is an attitude toward Russia that a terrorist deserves," he said. Other world leaders also condemned the attack, with French President Emmanuel Macron saying that the strike undermined Washington-led peace talks between the two sides. *AP*

ISRAEL INTENSIFIES GAZA STRIKES, HITS HOSP

DEIR AL-BALAH

ISRAEL struck a hospital in northern Gaza early Sunday, forcing patients to evacuate as attacks intensified.

The pre-dawn strike hit Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza City, after Israel issued an evacuation warning, according to Gaza's ministry of health. One patient, a girl, died during the evacuation because medical staff were unable to provide urgent care, it said.

The hospital is run by the Diocese of Jerusalem, which condemned the attack in a statement, saying it happened on "Palm Sunday, the start of the Holy Week, the most sacred week of the Christian year." Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

Israel said it struck a command and control center used by Hamas at the hospital to plan and execute attacks against Israeli civilians and soldiers, without providing evidence. It said prior to the strike, steps were taken to mitigate harm, including issuing warnings, and using precise munitions and aerial surveillance.

In a statement Sunday, Hamas denied the allegations that the hospital was used by militants and called for an independent international investigation.

Hours later, a separate strike on a car in Deir al-Balah in central Gaza, killed at least seven people — six brothers and their friend — according to staff at the morgue of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, which received the bodies. The brothers, of whom the youngest was 10, were buried in Deir al-Balah.

Their father, Ibrahim Abu Mahadi, said his sons worked for a charity that distributes food to Palestinians in Gaza. "For what sin were they killed?" he said.

Associated Press reporters saw the mangled, bloodied car after the attack as relatives wept over the bodies.

Another strike in Deir al-Balah, on a municipal building Sunday afternoon, killed at least three people, according to the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, and in the southern city of Khan Younis, a strike killed at least three people,said staff at Nasser Hospital, which received the bodies.

In the last 24 hours, Gaza's health ministry said that 11 people were killed and more than 100 wounded. *AFP*

Family and neighbours watch as volunteers and emergency workers search for survivors at Manoun family's house after it was targeted by an Israeli army strike in Jabalia al-Balad, Gaza City | AP

EXPRESS READ

Bus blast kills 8 in Nigeria's Borno state

Maiduguri: A roadside bomb suspected to have been planted by Boko Haram militants killed eight people and injured more than a dozen others in northeastern Nigeria, police said Sunday. The bus was travelling along the Damboa-Maiduguri highway in Borno state when it hit the explosive device on Saturday. Boko Haram, which launched its insurgency in 2009, has killed over 35,000 people and displaced millions. Though pushed to remote areas, the group continues to stage deadly ambushes, stoking fear among residents and travellers in the conflict-hit region. *AP*

Italian PM to host US VP on April 18

MOSCOW

ITALIAN Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni will host US Vice-President JD Vance in Rome on April 18, a day after she visits US President Donald Trump in Washington, her office said on Sunday. Vance is a convert to Catholicism and according to Italian media he will also visit the Vatican on what is Good Friday ahead of Easter Sunday, the most holy celebration in the religion.

The meetings come as Trump's slew of tariffs — which he has since paused — has caused chaos across the world's stock markets while leaving the United States' traditional allies scrambling for answers.

Meloni, head of the post-fascist brothers of Italy party, will fly back and forth across the Atlantic within 48 hours to meet both the US president and his vice president. Vance's visit comes three weeks after Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini — head of the rival far-right League party — held a telephone conversation with Vance. A fortnight ago, Meloni declared herself in agreement with Vance's criticism of Europe. *AFP*

WESTERN RAILWAY

MATERIAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

VARIOUS MATERIALS SUPPLY

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/20/2025 Date 09.04.2025

S.N.	Short Description of Item	Quantity	T.O.D.
179	Pinion shaft for WAP-7 loco 20 teeth	185 Nos	5-May-2025
180	Set of harnessed cable	80 Set	5-May-2025
181	Cutting Chain Assembly complete with 7 Link sets in loose.	8 Set	6-May-2025
182	23 TEETH PINION FOR HITACHI TRACTION MOTOR.	159 Nos	7-May-2025
183	ALUMINIUM IMPELLER	175 Nos	9-May-2025

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** and **www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in**

0038

Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly • Follow us on: X.com/WesternRly

PUBLIC NOTICE

Under the instructions and authority given by my clients, I am issuing this public notice as under:-

That, my clients have entered into an agreement of sale for the purchase of the piece and parcel of the immovable properties bearing vacant site No 777, property ID No 4312020621 formed by Bengaluru Development Authority, i.e BDA, T Choudayya Road, Kumar Park, West, Bengaluru, situated at Sir M Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 2nd Block, Bengaluru, measuring East-West 12.00 Mtrs & North-South 18 Mtrs. In all measuring 216.00 Sq.Mtrs and bounded on the East by Site No 776, West by Site No.778, North by Site No.746, South by Road which is more fully discribed in the scheduled hereunder and hereinafter, referred to as Scheduled property and having acquired the same through an allottement from Bengaluru Development Authority, vide allottment letter No. BDA/DS-3/777/BLK/III/SMVL/2003-04, No.025876, Dt: 07.04.2003, after completion of all the formalities, the BDA, Benguluru has execute registered sale deed, vide document No. 11771/2003-04, Book No-I, CD No: BDAD-3 Dt: 27/12/2003, in the office of the Additional District Registrar, BDA, Bengaluru and issued the possession certificate no. 068458, Dt: 22-10-2003 to one Mr M SUNDAR RAJAN, Age: about 64 Yrs, S/o A.S.Mani, residing at No 239/4, Gurumuruthy Reddy layout, 3rd Block, Ramamurthy Nagar, Doorvani Nagar, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru, Pan Card No-ACYPR4773R, Aadhar No. 204476518205. The owner has represented that he is the absolute owner & is in possession of the scheduled property, i.e. site no.777 which is free from any kind of Encumbrances, suits, title, interest, claim or demand whatsoever in the schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale exchange, mortgage, charge lease, gift, inheritance, bequeaths possession lis-pendences, maintenance, easements, momorandum of understanding, agreement, power of attorney, option right of first refusal, pre-emption or otherwise, any claims whatsoever is hereby required to notify the same in writing to the undersigned within a period of 7 days (07 days) from the date of issuance of this public notice with all documentary proof thereof. Failing which my clients will have treat the title of the schedule property as clear and marketable and will proceed to purchase the above said schedule property on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regards to the schedule property. Hence this public notice.

SHRI H.R.HOOLI, Advocate High Court, # 494, 1st Floor, 6th Cross, Vidyamanya Nagar, Andrahalli Main Road, Bengaluru-560091. **M: 9449483619**

Bengaluru, Dt: 14-04-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO WHOMSOEVER CONCERN

Our client, **Ms. Anujna Ravikumar** intends to purchase the Properties described in the Schedule herein below from **Mrs. N.P Aswini and Mr.Balaji .S ("Owners").** It has been represented to our Client that the Properties are presently in the physical possession of the Owners. It is also represented that Schedule A Property has been mortgaged with **Kammavari Credit Co-operative Society**

An **Agreement for Sale dated 07/04/2025** has been executed between our Client and the Owners with respect to the said properties.

In view of the above, the public at large is hereby informed that any person having any right, title, interest, or claim in respect of the Schedule Properties, or having any objections to the proposed sale, is required to notify the undersigned advocate with documentary evidence within **Fifteen (15) days** from the date of publication of this notice. Failure to do so will be deemed as an acceptance of this notice, and all claims shall be considered forfeited. In such an event, our Client will be advised to proceed with the transaction of purchase.

SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE A PROPERTY

All that is piece and parcel of immovable property bearing site No. 552, BDA Khata No. BDA/RÓ S/JPN/8/2/552/2008-09, situated at J.P. Nagara VIII Phase, II Block, Bengaluru, formed in Sy. Nos. 30, 31, 32, 35, 36 and 39, a layout formed by the Bangalore Development Authority, measuring East to West 9.14 Meters, and North to South 12.19 Meters, totally measuring about 111.41 Square Meters, with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever here under or underneath or above the surface and bounded on;

North by : Site No.551
South by : Site No. 553
West by : Road
East by : Site No. 565 & 566

SCHEDULE B PROPERTY

All that is part and parcel of 4200sq.ft residential house constructed on the Schedule A Property, comprising of a parking lot and one servant room in ground floor totally measuring 10.5 squares, one bedroom, hall, kitchen, pooja room and a small bedroom totally measuring 10.5 squares in First Floor, two bedrooms and a work station totally measuring 10.5 squares in Second Floor and a home theatre and a bedroom totally measuring 10.5 squares in Third Floor, constructed with RCC roofing, marble flooring, main door, internal doors and windows are of teak wood, together with all civil amenities likes electricity, borewell and sanitary connection, passenger lift (6 persons capacity) and with all fixtures, together with all rights appurtenance whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface.

Nachappa AK
Advocate- Kar 375/2022
For Kalappa & Co.
108, First Floor, Commerce House Building, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru- 560052. M: +917022264605

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients, Sri. Gopalkrishna S/o. late. A. Narayana Swamappa aged about 72 years, residing at, #113, Srirama Gudi Street, Jodidar Mane, Byatarayanapura, Bangalore North, Bangalore- 560092, Smt. Venkatalakshmamma W/o. Late. N. Janardhan aged about 65 years, residing at No. 111, Jodidar House, Byatarayanapura, Bangalore North, Bangalore- 560092 and Sri. Jayadev. S S/o. N.Siddaramappa, aged about 47 years residing at, Sri. Rama Nilaya, 13th Main, 'A' Block, Aswathappa Farm, Bangalore North, Bangalore- 560092, have hereby revoked/cancelled the unregistered General Power of Attorney (GPA) dated 14-03-2025, executed in favour of Sri. N. Venkataraman S/o. Late. A. Narayana Swamappa, aged about 82 years, R/at Chimpuganahalli Village, Kodlahalli Post, Koratagere Taluk, Tumkur District- 572121, as the said General Power of Attorney is no more needed for whatsoever purpose. There is no other GPA or similar document whatsoever is given to said N.Venkataraman.

The public are requested not to enter into any deeds with the said N.Venkataraman in any manner based on the said unregistered GPA dt: 14-03-2025 or any document purported to have been executed by my clients herein above in favour of the said Sri. N. Venkataraman with respect to any Property or for any other purpose.

CHIDANANDA. P. 'TARKA LEGAL'
Advocates & Solicitors,
No. 15/1, (Old No.601),
3rd Main, (Opp. Swimming Pool),
Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru-560080.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client **Sri. G. CHANDRA SHEKAR** S/o. Late. T.M.Ganesh, Aged about 49 years, Residing at No.3, E.B.T. Colony, Someshwara Layout, Hulimavu, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore South, BANGALORE-560076 is intends to purchase the property more particularly described in the schedule hereunder written from Smt. CHETANA SHANTARAM HEGDE W/o Late. Rohith Konala Ganapathi, Aged about 44 years, Residing at Flat No.2071, Shobha Moonstone Apartments, Dasarahalli Main Road, Hebbal Kempapura, Bangalore-560024 and her children's, who represented that they have clear and marketable title to the same. Any person/s, financial institutions and statutory authorities who claims any right, title or interest of any nature or any lien, charge or enforceable right in relation to the schedule property and or have any objections of any nature to the aforesaid transaction should lodge such claims and/or objections in writing to the undersigned together with supporting documents within **SEVEN (7) days** from today, filing which it will be presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist and my client would proceed to complete the sale transaction with the present owners thereof subject to compliance with other statutory and legal formalities.

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable Residential Property bearing Southern Portion of Site No.64, Old Khatha No.738, New Khatha No.1604, present BBMP Khatha No.1604/738/64/1, (formed out of converted Property bearing Sy.No.341, duly converted from agricultural to non-agricultural residential purpose vide conversion order bearing No.B.Dis.ALN.SR(S)28/2003-04 dated.13.05.2003, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District) Situated at BEGUR Village, (now called as Sathya Sai Layout), Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, now comes under the limits of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Ward No.192, measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South on the Eastern side 46 Feet and on the Western side 56 Feet (46+56)/2 Feet totally measuring to an extent of 2040 Sq. Ft, and bounded as follows; On the **East by :** Road, **West by :** Site No.65, **North by :** Remaining Northern portion of same Site No.64, **South by :** Site No.63.

M. ANANDA, B.A., LL.B.,
Advocate Roll No.KAR 1007/95, No.1431, Ground Floor, D' Souza Building, Begur Main Road, Near Sub-Registrar's Office, Begur, Bangalore-560114 **Mob: 9845343337**

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)

Koramangala Layout Branch
348, 100ft Road, 4th Block
Koramangala, Bengaluru-560034
e-mail: cb0885@canarabank.com
Telephone: 9483520885, 080-25536364

POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule - 13(4)] (For immovable Property)

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **Canara Bank Koramangala Layout Branch,** under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated **21-01-2025** calling upon the **Borrower/s Dr. SUJATHA H** to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice, being **Rs.7,26,002.50** (Rupees Seven Lakh Twenty Six Thousands Two And Paisa Fifty Only) within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under Section13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on this **08th day of April of the year 2025.**

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Canara Bank** for an amount of **Rs.7,52,142.50** (Rupees Seven Lakh Fifty Two Thousand One Hundred Forty Two Rupees And Fifty Paisa Only) Plus interest & other charges thereon.

The Borrower's Attention is invited to the Provisions of Section 13(8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the Secured Assets.

Description of the Immovable Property

Name of Title holder: Dr. Sujatha H

Immovable : All that piece and parcel of Residential converted site bearing no. 37, V. P. katha No. 148 formed in Survey Nos. 38 and 45, in the layout named VAKIL SATELLITE TOWNSHIP, situated at Gopasandra Village, Sarjapur Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Banglore Urban District, Measuring Eastern side 24 ft. Western side 29 ft., Northern side 60, Southern side 60 ft., totally measuring 1590 sq. ft. and bounded on the : East by : Road, West by : Site No. 36, North by : Private property, South by : Site No. 38.

Date : 08.04.2025
Place : Bangalore

Sd/-Authorized Officer
Canara Bank

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Division, Almatti-586201. Tq:Nidagundi Dt: Vijayapur.
Phone:08426-281027 E-mail:dam_division@rediffmail.com

No: KBJNL/DDA/DB/2025-26/72 Dated:08.04.2025

SHORT TERM QUOTATION

Requesting to submit the quotation rates for the following work related to the maintenance of ARBC & TLIS LIS Headwork. The details of the works are as follows:

Sl.No	Name of work
1	Overhauling, servicing and replacement of requisite spares of EOT Crane 30/5 and 15/5 Ton Capacity at ARBC and TLIS Headwork.
2	Servicing and replacement of requisite spares for RTCC penal, C&R Panel, AC and Dc Switch Board, Tap position Indicator, Timer, annunciator etc.,) in OLTC of 7.5 MVA & 6.3 MVA Power Transformer in ARBC & TLIS Headwork.
3	Supplying and installation of electrical spares for sub-station and control panel of motor of TLIS & ARBC LIS Headwork.
4	Overhauling, Servicing and replacement of requisite spares of Transformer 7.5 MVA and 6.3 MVA Capacity at ARBC and TLIS Headwork.
5	Servicing of 25 KVA Diesel generator set & Provide mounting structure for Diesel generator and providing lighting system for ARBC AND TLIS Hw.

For further details it is requested to visit the undersigned office personally and get the details of work. The quotations should be submitted in sealed cover or by mail. The last date submission of quotation is on **Dated: 22.04.2025 at 5.00 PM.**

Email: 1.dam_division@rediffmail.com

Contact Phone Number: 1. Sri Vittal Tubaki, Assistant Engineer, **Contact. No. 8971985865**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Division, Almatti

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/19/ಕೆಎಸ್.ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

STATE BANK OF INDIA
Retail Assets Central Processing Centre , Koramangala
#12, Ground,2nd & 3rd Floor,80 Feet Road,1st Block, Koramangala, Bangalore-560034. Karnataka, India. Email: maintracpc2.ban@sbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE [RULE - 8(1)]
(For Immovable Property)

A/C No: SBI/RACPC/SISIR/KRMANGALA/ HL/40781341737

Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the State Bank of India, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (No.3 of 2002) issued a **Demand Notices** dated **27.01.2025** issued, calling upon the **BORROWER: Mr. Murthy. K** S/o Kuppan No. 37/A, Dickenson Road, Shivan Chetty Garden, ABR Sowarna Mall, Bangalore North,Bangalore-560042. **Also, at: 1).Mr. Murthy. K. S/o** Kuppan. Writer Relocation Services, Maple Crest, No.7 Benson Road, Benson Town, Bangalore-560042. **2). Mr. Murthy. K.** S/o Kuppan. Site No.17/7 & 17/8, Situated at RMD Layout, Kalkere Village, K.R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Banglore-560016 **Co-BORROWER 1). Mr. Deepak Kumar. M** S/o Murthy. K.No. 37/A, Dickenson Road, Shivan Chetty Garden, ABR Sowarna Mall, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560042. **Also, at: 1). Mr. Deepak Kumar. M** S/o Murthy. K. Looking Good Furniture.No. 11 Dickenson Road, Opp CAR Park, St Johns Road, Junction, Near Commercial Street, Bangalore-560042. **2). Mr. Deepak Kumar. M.** S/o Murthy. K. No. 37, Dickenson Road, Near Kalyani Jewellery, Bangalore-560042. **3) Mr. Deepak Kumar. M** S/o Murthy. K. Site No.17/7 & 17/8, Situated at RMD Layout, Kalkere Village, K.R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Banglore-560016. to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 24,47,770/- (Rupees Twenty-Four Lakhs Forty-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Only)** as on 24.01.2025. and with interest at contractual rate and expenses thereon within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said rules, on 08.04.2025

The Borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India for an amount of **Rs. 24,35,098- (Rupees Twenty-FourLakhs Thirty-Five Thousand Ninety -Eight Only)** as on 05.04.2025 and interest, + expenses, cost, charges, etc. thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provision of Sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY

ITEM NO. I:- All that piece and parcel of residential Eastern Portion of Site bearing No.17/7, Carved out of Property No.17, in Sy.No. 500, Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Sl.No.4696, vide Converted vide (Official Memorandum Dated 13.4.2005, bearing No.ALN.SR.(E)268/2004-05, dated 13.4.2005, issued by Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District), measuring East to West 10 feet and North to South 40 feet, in all measuring 400 Sq. Feet, situated at R DM Layout, Kalkere Village, K.R.Puram, Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface and bounded on the; **East by:** Site No.17/8; **West by:** Remaining Portion of same Site No.17/7; **North by:** Road; **South by:** Private Property;

ITEM NO. II:- All that piece and parcel of residential Western Portion of Site bearing No.17/8, Carved out of Property No.17, in Sy.No.500, Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Sl. No.4696, vide Converted vide (Official Memorandum Dated 13.4.2005, bearing No.ALN.SR.(E) 268/2004-05, dated 13.4.2005, issued by Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District), measuring East to West 10 feet and North to South 40 feet, in all measuring 400 Sq. Feet, situated at R D M Layout, Kalkere Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface and bounded on the; **East by:** Site No.17/8; **West by:** Remaining Portion of same Site No.17/7; **North by:** Road; **South by:** Private Property;

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY

(Property sold under this Sale Deed)

All that piece and parcel of residential Eastern Portion of Site bearing No.17/7 and residential Western Portion of Site bearing No.17/8, measuring East to West 20 feet and North to South 40 feet, in all measuring 800 Sq. Feet, both the sites Carved out of Property No. 17, in Sy.No.500, Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Sl.No.4696, vide Converted vide (Official Memorandum Dated 13/4/2005, bearing No.ALN.SR. (E) 268/2004-05, dated 13/4/2005, issued by Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District), Situated at RDM Layout, Kalkere Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface and bounded on the;. **East by:** Remaining Portion of Site No.17/8; **West by:** Remaining Portion of Site No.17/7; **North by:** Road; **South by:** Private Property.

Authorized Officer
STATE BANK OF INDIA
RACPC- II, Koramangala ,BENGALURU

Place: Bengaluru
Date:08.04.2025

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
(erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)
CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792
Registered Office: KRM Towers, 8 Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai - 600031.
TEL: +91 44 4564 4000 | FAX: +91 44 4564 4022.

IDFC FIRST Bank

PUBLIC NOTICE
GOLD AUCTION CUM INVITATION NOTICE

The Below mentioned borrower has been issued notices to pay the outstanding amount towards the credit facility against Gold ornament savailed by him from IDFC FIRST Bank Limited. Since the borrower has failed to repay the dues under the facility. We are constrained to conduct an auction of the pledged Gold ornaments on **29/04/2025.** In the event any surplus amount is realized from this auction, the same will be returned to the concerned borrower and if there is any deficit post the auction, the balance amount shall be recovered from the borrower through appropriate legal proceedings. IDFC FIRST Bank has the authority to remove the following account from the auction without prior intimation. Further IDFC FIRST Bank reserves the right to change the Auction Date without any prior notice.

Loan Account Number	Customer Name	Branch Name
154981092	KUMAR M	BANGALORE JP NAGAR FIFTH PHASE BRANC
163208312	M RAJESH	SESHADRIPURAM BRANCH
139889756	R SHOBHA	KUNIGAL IFBL

Auction will be conducted online through https://idfcegold.auctiontiger.net on 29/04/2025 from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. / http://gold.samil.in on 29/04/2025 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm By way of this publication the concerned borrower are hereby given final notice and last opportunity to pay the facility recalled amount, with all interest and charges before the schedule auction date failing which the jewellery will be auctioned. Please note that, if the auction does not get completed on the same day due to time limit the bank will re auction the pledged gold ornaments within next 7 days on the same terms and conditions. If the customer is deceased all the conditions pertaining to auction will be applicable to his legal heirs.

Date:14.04.2025 Place: KARNATAKA

All the news. In just a click. Log to www.newindianexpress.com | THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS | /thenewindianxpress @newindianxpress +The New Indian Express | GET IT ON Google Play | Download on the App Store

244.27 MT India's coal import dropped by 1.4% in the April-Feb period of FY25.

Here's how EMIs can be less burden for you

In case if your home loan is on a fixed rate, you can reprocess loan rate by paying a nominal processing fees

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

THE Reserve Bank of India has cut the interest rate for the second consecutive time by a fourth of a percentage point, taking the applicable rate to 6%. How to make good of this falling interest rate regime is the immediate question that comes to the mind of every borrower.

Here are a few tips to make the easy money policy of the monetary authority lighter on your wallet:

With the monetary policy stance also getting changed to accommodative from neutral, it's clear that we are in for an easy money regime going forward, of course if there are no shockers, both external and domestic, as Reserve Bank governor Sanjay Malhotra had indicated on April 9 while announcing the first monetary policy review of the new fiscal. This is a great relief for the economy as a whole, and not individual borrowers, as the rates have been really high at 6.5% for almost five years now.

However, before we look at how the EMIs can be a lesser burden on your wallet, we should also remember that a falling interest rate regime also means, the interest you earn on your deposits will also be falling going forward.

While any existing loan priced on the EBLR (external benchmark--read repo rate--linked lending rate) will be automatically reduced in the similar quantum as the repo rate reduction, the interest rate reduction on deposits will not be automatic and your existing deposits will not be affected—which means that an interest rate committed

to your fixed deposits cannot be reduced.

Where banks will be hitting you will be when you go to them with a new deposit—large banks like the State Bank of India, HDFC Bank and Bank of India, among others have already announced reduction in new fixed deposit rates.

This is understandable too, as the margins have been falling with higher deposit rates and falling loan rates. The biggest beneficiaries will be existing home and auto loan borrowers and many expect home loan prices falling to around or under 8% now—a first in two years.

How to get EMIs reduced?

While all EBLR loan rates will automatically be reduced with the repo rate cuts, those on the fixed rate will not get the benefits automatically.

So if your loan is on a fixed rate, walk down to your home branch and reprocess your loan rate by paying a nominal processing fee. It will be better to change the terms of your loans along with this repricing—from fixed rate to floating rate, as in all likelihood, we are in for an easy money regime.

If your finances are not bad, you can keep the EMI at the current higher rate and choose to lower the tenure of the loan. A 50 bps rate reduction from say 9.5% to 9% or even lower, should ideally reduce your loan tenure by at least 10 months.

If your bank is not giving you the best pricing, you can approach another bank and get your home or auto loans transferred and bargain for the lowest prices. Analysts are expecting the home loan rate to fall below 8% mark for the first time in many years if not for the entire system but for large banks like SBI and HDFC Bank. Ideally all the credit pricing, including credit cards, which now hover around 3.95% per month, should fall in a falling interest rate regime.

IN CONVERSATION

SABEER BHATIA
Co-founder, Hotmail & ShowReel

'Deeptech is about pursuing new ideas, not chasing returns'

HOTMAIL co-founder **Sabeer Bhatia** asks Indian entrepreneurs to change their mindset and take a risk even if it fails. Bhatia, who founded ShowReel, an AI-powered learning platform in 2021, tells **Uma Kannan** that the country has plenty of talent and that it should make use of AI. Edited **excerpts**:

Recently, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal urged founders to explore innovations in technology like deeptech rather than focusing more on food delivery apps. How are you looking at India's start-up ecosystem?

I kind of agree with him. I think this whole obsession with being successful is a problem, because that means you are investing in start-ups only to make money. And then you try to de-risk your investments. Deeptech is not about getting returns, it is about pursuing new ideas, new ways of solving problems that have no economic outcome, and one in a hundred has some sort of use case. It is not that we will go and make a better version of something that already exists. The risk aversion is the problem, and that stems from lack of critical thinking in our education system. If our education system is just based on rote learning and memorisation, you can have no deeptech.

Can we say that there is no talent here in deeptech?

It is not the talent, it is a way of thinking, a mindset. There is plenty of talent in India, but it is about allowing for diversity of opinions that leads to innovation. How did DeepSeek happen? They (China) were under a constraint as they could not import high-end chips. So, they asked the question if there is a different way of solving the problem. They figured out that instead of increasing the number of parameters in the large language model, they made two, with 30, 40 billion parameters only. So, they broke down the problem. That's a simple idea. It doesn't require you to get a PhD in anything.

I believe work should be fun and it should not be quantified in the number of hours one puts in. It is about getting the job done. Hours don't translate into productivity.

What should India do in order to leverage this AI boom?

What India should do is go 100% in AI, which means fund all kinds of different ideas —out-of-box and unproven ideas. The problem we have is we do not fund unproven ideas. For instance, everything has become an app today -- food, banking and transportation—then why we can't make elections an app. I spoke to a former Chief Election Commissioner and his answer was it would never happen in India. How can you say it will never happen?. His wife asked if it had been done somewhere before. I said then it is not innovation, it's a copy. We are experts at copying. We take pride in copying. We don't want to be the first, we don't want to take a risk. Change that mindset, be the first.

As an entrepreneur, what kind of opportunities are you looking at in India right now?

I am working on four different ideas that have a big India component. For every social media company today, the largest market is India. So obviously, I am working on some kind of social media and that kind of mass consumer products, for which India will be the largest market.

In India, the debate on work-life balance has been intensifying. Do you agree with long hours of work?

I believe work should be fun and it should not be quantified in the number of hours one puts in. It is about getting the job done. If somebody is given a task and can do it in one day and wants to go play golf the other four days, so be it. If a person is creative enough and can do it in one day, that's the way to work. Hours don't translate into productivity. That's the old industrial era model. We are not working in factories anymore.

What do you want to convey to young entrepreneurs who are looking for seed stage funding?

You have to believe in whatever you are doing, and believe not so much in what the outcome is financially, but believe that it really can cause a change and the product will really work.

MONEY-WISE

ON A GIANT WHEEL RIDE...RIGHT NOW

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR
Head of LKW-India.
He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com
(Views expressed here are personal)

SOME years back, I started a series in this column titled 'Right Now', which was the title of a popular rock song released over three decades ago by the music group, Van Halen. The lyrics of this song proposed living for the moment and not being afraid of making a change. So, in this fortnight's column, I propose to take you, my valued readers, on a Giant-Wheel ride .... 'Right Now' across our financial markets.

Right now, the dust that seemed to be settling on the just ended financial year has turned into a storm across global markets following the launch of fresh tariffs by the United States of America and its subsequent pause for countries other than China.

For the record, the financial year gone by actually ended up accentuating the bull run at the Indian bourses. Does this mean the current financial year will be one marked by even greater volatility? Perhaps so, but as far as I am concerned, even if it does, what matters is how well the Indian government, as also an investor is able to ride the tariff storm. Right now, one needs to tread cautiously as the tariff situation just like Covid, is unprecedented. In fact, even more so as Covid like situations had been seen and faced sporadically in the past. Clearly, the real target of the tariffs is China, but they have the economic firepower to take on the US in a prolonged tariff war that ebbs and rises like a tide.

Right now, India could be a potential beneficiary of a prolonged trade war between America and China, given that its government has good relations with the American government and is working on striking a bilateral trade deal that will be mutually beneficial. Heightened economic activity with China which will now be more eager to engage with India more actively to gain wider access to its large market, could be a positive fallout as also peace on the borders which could be another big plus. Right now, there are seasoned market participants doing more than hedging their equity bets with gold. The price of the precious yellow metal continues to surge. And, if the equity markets remain even half as volatile as it has been over the last fortnight, can there be a further uptick in gold prices? Depending on one's answer to this question, one could either top up the yellow metal or simply sit back and let the growth in value happen on its own sans the deployment of further capital.

Right now, the markets and for that matter, the economy too, is bracing for the tariff upheavals to continue. While the market mood remains nervous and fickle and to a large extent, fuelled by media voices, I prefer to ignore the media fuelled sentiments and instead, to try and insulate my investments to the extent possible.

MONEY MATTERS

WHEN ONE SHOULD WORRY ABOUT MONEY

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

IF you are faint-hearted, financial markets could scare you right now. There is volatility due to everyday buying and selling of shares, bonds or commodities. Then, there is volatility, as we are witnessing now. It is a peculiar situation triggered by uncertainty. Financial markets wobble when they do not know what lies ahead. It is essential to know that you are a saver and an investor. The uncertainty that affects financial markets worldwide is bound to create doubts in your mind. You need to follow lead indicators that could help you make sense of the situation and take appropriate action.

Inflation and Interest rates

If you are a saver, your money is influenced mainly by inflation and interest rates. The latest monetary policy update from the Reserve Bank of India expects inflation to hover around 4% for 2025-26. That is lower than the average consumer price inflation in India of 4.7% in 2024-25. You need to observe the yield curve in the bond market to get a sense of the direction. Trillions of dollars move across bond markets where yields indicate the economic outlook.

The 10-year bond yields are a benchmark in a well-functioning government bond market. India is witnessing a benign trend in bond yields as the market buys RBI's projections for inflation. If there is a risk of inflation, bond yields tend to rise. In the US, yields are rising sharply due to risks of a bond selloff. Globally, it is currently a significant risk for the financial system.

Countries like Japan, China, and Britain hold high-denomination US treasury bonds. There are fears that China could use them to stall the US strategy of imposing tariffs. To some extent, that worked when, at the last minute, the Trump administration allowed a 90-day relief to countries on tariffs except China. However, the 10-year bond yields are rising as the risk to the US economy continues. That hurts the equity assets in the US as they share an inverse relationship. The volatility in the US stock market has been at its highest level since COVID-19.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

If global interest rates remain elevated, it will also be hard to see any rapid interest rate cuts in India. In an interconnected world, India's economy cannot move in the other direction.

Economic growth, profits

India's annual economic growth will likely remain at 6.5% for the next few years. Despite the turmoil in global trade, there is no significant revision in the growth prospects. While exports could be affected, it helps India not to be an export-centric economy. India needs to grow faster than it is growing now to meet the needs of the surging population.

A global slowdown due to a trade war could stall the march and business growth. Indian companies seem to have been using capital more efficiently and generating steady returns for a long time. An analysis by DSP Mutual Fund shows that India's 20-year compounded annual growth rate for earnings per share (net profit per share) is the highest at 9% compared to 6% for the rest of the world, 7% for the US and 6% for China. That means companies' profits in India are growing the fastest among major countries. That should keep foreign investors and domestic investors interested.

The latest mutual fund data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) shows a sharp cut in systematic investment plan accounts in March 2025. These are primarily equity-linked mutual funds. That is counter-productive if you are trying to do retirement planning.

You must stay invested and ride through the stock market cycles to create wealth and beat inflation. Share prices move in line with profits. Presently, they are affected by factors beyond corporate performance.

India's auto component output to double by 2030 to $145 bn

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

INDIA'S auto-component manufacturing would double from $70 billion in 2022 to $145 billion in 2030, according to a report by Niti Aayog. The government think tank also sees component exports trebling to $60 billion by 2030 from the existing $20 billion.

"This growth would position India as a formidable player in global markets, achieving a trade surplus of $25 billion and increasing its share in the global value chain (GVC) of auto components from 3% to 8%," says the report. To achieve this, the report outlines a comprehensive set of interventions across multiple domains. It recommends fiscal interventions, which include operational expenditure (Opex) support to scale up manufacturing, with a special focus on capital expenditure (Capex) assistance for the development of tools and dies, IP transfer and branding support which are crucial for automotive component manufacturing. Highlighting that most manufacturing supply chains across the world are concentrated in clusters, the report recommends cluster development to strengthen supply chains, reduce logistics costs, and establish common R&D and testing facilities.

The report also emphasises on skill development initiatives to ensure a steady pipeline of talent, which is essential for driving sectoral growth. On the non-fiscal front, it suggests interventions such as business improvement support to enhance global competitiveness, encouragement of JVs and free trade agreements (FTAs) to foster international collaboration and market access, adoption of Industry 4.0 and enhanced quality standards to improve manufacturing efficiency initiatives to position India as a key global player in the automotive component sector.

'Tariff -induced uncertainty will be short-lived'

PTI @ Mumbai

K Krithivasan -- the chief executive and managing director of TCS -- believes that the tariff moves-induced uncertainty impacting the sector will be "short-lived" and expects it to get resolved within "months".

The over $39-billion order book of the company will ensure that TCS will continue revenue bookings, the head of the country's largest IT services company told PTI. Stating that the deal pipeline is "strong", Krithivasan said the current situation where some clients have stopped discretionary spending is not resulting in any pricing pressures.

In fact, there has been a slight uptick in pricing both on-year and from a sequential perspective, he added.

Foreign investors hit the sell button amid market rout; offload ₹31,988 cr

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

A sharp decline in Indian equities, triggered by US President Donald Trump's reciprocal tariffs, has led to a renewed sell-off by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) after a brief buying spurt in late March. Between April 1 and 11, FPIs offloaded equities worth ₹31,988 crore (NSDL data), reversing their net purchases during March 20–27.

VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments said that a clear pattern in FPI strategy will emerge only after the ongoing chaos dies down. In the medium term FIIs are likely to turn buyers in India since both the US and China are heading for an inevitable slowdown as a result of the ongoing trade war.

"Even in an unfavourable global scenario India can grow by 6% in FY 26. This, along with better earnings growth expected in FY 26, can attract FPI investments into India once the dust in the market settles down," stated Vijayakumar.

The currency's decline has further dented FPI returns. The Indian rupee posted its worst weekly drop since February, depreciating 0.9% amid global volatility, though it pared losses to close at 86.04 against the dollar on Friday. Analysts believe that the turbulence caused in the global equity market has forced investors to move into safer asset classes.

FY25 marked a record annual FPI withdrawal of ₹1.27 lakh crore—the second-highest single-year outflow—as investors retreated from Indian equities since late September. The sell-off played a major role in dragging the Sensex and Nifty down nearly 15% from their September 2024 peaks.

FPIs initially shifted funds to more attractive markets like China, but Trump's trade policies and weaker-than-expected Indian corporate earnings have exacerbated the exodus.

Indian recurve archers win silver at World Cup Stage 1

India bagged a silver medal in the men's recurve team event at the Archery World Cup Stage 1 after the trio of Dhiraj Bommadevara, Tarundeep Rai and **Atanu Das** went down 1-5 to China in the final, at Auburndale (USA) on Sunday. This was India's third medal of the season-opening event.

Crunch hour: Spotlight on Dhoni

Aiming to lift CSK from the bottom, captain spends a lot of time playing spinners in nets

FIROZ MIRZA @ Lucknow

MS Dhoni (L) will be looking to provide a much-needed spark on Monday | AFP

SHIVAM Dube, Vijay Shankar, Ravindra Jadeja and Rahul Tripathi had a long session of batting while R Ashwin bowled continuously even as batters facing him kept changing here at Ekana on Sunday evening. But what caught the attention was the initial absence of Chennai Super Kings' skipper MS Dhoni.

Injury to their captain Ruturaj Gaikwad meant the former India skipper was given the reins of the team once again ahead of CSK's previous match against Kolkata Knight Riders in Chennai. It hardly made any difference as the team's campaign went from bad to worse with the defending champions registering a comprehensive win. The loss was CSK's third straight defeat at home and fifth successive this season.

They might be struggling but all is not lost yet and eyes are on Dhoni to revive the team's campaign. Given the arduous task he has in his hand, Dhoni was the focal point as the team members arrived at the venue to prepare for their next clash. And that's why his absence hit everyone hard and led to some murmuring as well. Ending all those talks and speculations, Dhoni eventually walked onto the ground and was immediately joined by head physiotherapist of the team, Tommy Simsek. They spent quite some time together. Dhoni had a brief spell of running with Simsek before putting on the batting pads. But he didn't go into the nets immediately as he laid down with the physiotherapist rubbing his back. Even before wearing the pads, Dhoni was seen holding his back but it hardly mattered as soon as he entered the nets. It all started with a few throwdowns before the spinners including Ashwin took over. Given his struggles against the tweakers, Dhoni faced them in the nets at least for an hour. What started as a quiet session turned into a display of power hitting a few minutes later with the CSK skipper regularly launching the ball over the boundary.

Given the situation they are in at the moment, the five-time champions desperately want this version of Dhoni to turn up against Lucknow on Monday. They desperately need inspiration and who better than Dhoni to provide it. Head coach Stephen Fleming said the same but added everyone has to work hard along with the captain to achieve the desired result.

"His influence will always be prominent, but he's not a soothsayer, he hasn't got a magic wand, he can't just rub it over the side, otherwise he would have brought it out earlier. It's a case of us working very hard, along with MS, to turn it around," Fleming told the journalists during the pre-match press conference. The coach said Dhoni and he had seen such situations in the past and the need of the hour is to focus on the right things. "Certainly in both of our cricketing careers, we've been in situations that require a lot of energy, and we've got to make sure that the energy is put in the right place. Often you can get consumed with things that actually don't matter, so drawing it all down and just making sure we're concentrating on the right things has probably been the key for the last couple of days."

The biggest issue with this CSK side is the dearth of power-hitters. Dhoni along with Jadeja, who took turns to bat in the nets with his captain, can resolve it to a degree if they succeed in providing momentum in that phase of the game. Shankar and Deepak Hooda were supposed to play that role in the middle phase but the duo are yet to provide fireworks.

It cannot happen overnight. The coach knows it as well and wants his team to turn their hurt into motivation to return to winning ways. "We've got to look at it in small steps and just continue to work to get better at all three facets, really, and then you start competing. I think the disappointing aspect, in particular the last game, was the lack of competition we put up, and that hurt a lot. So there's certainly been a lot of internal soul-searching, but also a lot of work around what we need to do, and it's important that we put a performance out that is representative of the proud franchise that we are. So yeah, there's a lot of hurt that we can turn to motivation, but it's not about words, it's about players grabbing the moment, finding form, finding their groove, and almost shaking off any apprehension which can creep in when you're just searching for a performance. So yeah, we're working really hard on what we think we need to do."

As Dhoni departed after sweating it out at the nets, Ashwin took over as faced spinners including from teammate Rachin Ravindra. Come Monday, the team, however, will hope its skipper finishes the game as he had done in the past with no one required to take over from him.

Too much Salt for RR's liking

AGENCIES @ Jaipur

RCB's Phil Salt was adjudged the Man of the Match against RR on Sunday | AP

PHIL Salt's explosive 33-ball 65 laid the foundation and Virat Kohli's 100th T20 fifty provided the finishing touch as Royal Challengers Bengaluru cruised to a dominant nine-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals in the IPL on Sunday.

RCB's decision to bowl first paid off on a surface that stayed low and offered variable bounce, even as Yashasvi Jaiswal's fluent 75 off 47 balls stood out in Rajasthan Royals total of 173/4. On a slow, tacky Sawai Mansingh surface where stroke-making was far from easy, Salt's counterattack stunned the hosts.

He smashed six sixes and five fours in his fiery innings, putting RR's bowlers under pressure from the start.

His assault, followed by Kohli's unbeaten 62 off 45 balls (4x4, 2x6), helped RCB chase down 174 with ease, finishing the job in just 17.3 overs.

This was RCB's fourth win of the season -- all coming in away matches. Salt signalled his intent from the outset, top-edging Jofra Archer for a six in the opening over and also survived a close lbw shout.

He constantly shuffled across the stumps to access the leg-side and raced to his second fifty of the season in just 28 balls, bringing the required target to under 100 in the eighth over. He had moments of fortune along the way. On 23, a powerful flick ricocheted off Sandeep Sharma's outstretched hand in a tough return catch attempt. Later, on 40, Jaiswal dropped a sharp low chance at cover, which also offered a run-out opportunity, but the stumps weren't hit. Salt made the Royals pay dearly for those lapses.

Meanwhile, Kohli was happy to play second fiddle, beginning cautiously with just seven off his first six balls. He too had an early life — a miscue off Sandeep's slower ball was put down by Riyan Parag at mid-off, a straightforward chance. But the RCB's iconic batter regrouped quickly and settled into his anchor role.

Together, the duo stitched a 92-run opening stand, with 65 runs coming in the powerplay alone, a phase that decisively tilted the contest RCB's way.

Salt was eventually dismissed for 65, bowled by Kumar Kartikeya, leaving RCB needing just 82 from 68 balls.

From there, Kohli took charge, pacing his innings with 25 singles and picking off the boundaries with surgical precision. He brought up his landmark 100th T20 fifty in style, dancing down the track to loft Wanindu Hasaranga straight over his head for a boundary. That over, the 15th of the innings, yielded 14 runs and brought the equation down to 28 off 30 balls to seal the result beyond doubt.

Brief scores: Rajasthan 173/4 in 20 ovs (Jaiswal 75, Jurel 35 n.o) **lost to** Bengaluru 175/1 in 17.3 ovs (Salt 65, Kohli 62 n.o).

Team	M	W	Pts	NRR
GT	6	4	8	1.08
DC	5	4	8	0.89
RCB	6	4	8	0.67
LSG	6	4	8	0.16
KKR	6	3	6	0.80
PBKS	5	3	6	0.06
MI	6	2	4	0.10
RR	6	2	4	-0.83
SRH	6	2	4	-1.2
CSK	6	1	2	-1.5

Updated post DC vs MI tie on Sunday

CHENNAI IN VIRTUAL LAST CHANCE SALOON

THE VISITORS, ON THE BACK OF A FIVE-MATCH LOSING STREAK, KNOW THEY HAVE TO START COLLECTING POINTS SOON IF THEY HAVE TO RETAIN ANY CHANCE OF ADVANCING. OPPONENTS LUCKNOW START OVERWHELMING FAVOURITES. A LOOK...

NICHOLAS POORAN'S SIX-HITTING MADNESS

Nicholas Pooran's range hitting has decorated the league this year as the southpaw alone has over 30 (just one behind the entire Chennai team -- 32 and 31). He will look to take on the entire Chennai spin contingent.

PACER KHALEEL VS LUCKNOW OPENERS

Apart from Khaleel Ahmad, none of Chennai's powerplay bowlers have found any joy. Against Lucknow, who usually deal in boundaries in this phase of the game, the visitors will have to find another bowler capable of standing up to that threat.

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS VS CHENNAI SUPER KINGS, LUCKNOW
LIVE ON STAR SPORTS & JIOHOTSTAR, 7.30 PM

Learning from someone like Narine, says Moeen

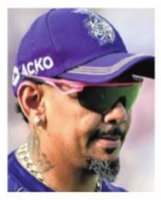
ASHOK VENUGOPAL @ Chennai

BOWLING on a surface that is spin-friendly is an art by itself. One needs to plan, bowl at the right angles and speeds, in order to get purchase.

This is where the spinners of Indian Premier League (IPL) holders Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) excelled to make the batters of the Chennai Super Kings (CSK) dance to their tunes.

Post their eight wicket-win recently at Chennai, former England all-rounder Moeen Ali stressed the importance of his colleagues' awareness in bowling on a slow track being crucial in getting two points.

The former CSK man made best use of the conditions, thanks to his previous experiences. "Having two left-handers (of CSK) helped my cause. I tried to keep it as tight as I can and pick up a couple of wickets. Rinku Singh's dive to stop that four helped with my confidence," Ali said.



Sunil Narine

He also explained how he didn't have to spin every ball, but one to confuse the batter.

"The pitch was a little bit tacky. I tried not to bowl too quickly. Sometimes it skids, sometimes it spins. However, I like to keep the shape on the ball and try to spin it," he added.

KKR wicketkeeper Quinton De Kock felt that the spin trio of Ali, Sunil Narine and Varun Chakravarthy were able to extract bounce as well as turn from the Chepauk wicket.

"Obviously, when we bowled, the wicket seemed a lot slower and it obviously gripped a bit. I think our bowlers really enjoyed it. But it progressively got better during the course of the innings," said De Kock. Narine and Chakravarthy picked up five wickets among themselves to set up KKR's victory. "Them being mystery bowlers makes it difficult for the batters to play," the 32-year old went on to add.

The South African explained how his spin colleagues take pride in what they do, and at the same time look to be the best versions of themselves.

"They're always working on their game, always trying to get better. With Sunil, he brings that X factor with the bat. I don't think he's missed a practice, even optional practices, and he works really hard," he added. Ali went a step further and insisted that he is learning from Narine. "I am learning from him on how I can bowl a couple of overs up top and set them up in the middle where they are quite hard to hit," added Ali.

Mumbai snatch it at the death

DELHI: Mumbai Indians effected three run outs in as many balls to steal the match from under Delhi Capitals in a thriller. Chasing 206, the hosts had control of the chase when they were 2/135 after 11.3 overs. Thanks to Karun Nair's 40-ball 89, they were coasting but they lost a string of wickets before Ashutosh Sharma and Vipraj Nigam were threatening to repeat their heroics. However, they lost their last four wickets for 13 runs to give Mumbai only their second win of the season.

Brief scores: Mumbai 205/5 in 20 ovs (Rickelton 41, Suryakumar 40, Varma 58, Naman 38 n.o, Vipraj 2/41, Kuldeep 2/23) **bt** Delhi 193 in 19 ovs (Porel 33, Karun 89, Santner 2/43).

Oscar Piastri gave McLaren their first ever victory in Sakhir on Sunday | AP

McLaren's Piastri wins Bahrain GP

AGENCIES @ Sakhir (Bahrain)

OSCAR Piastri won the Bahrain Grand Prix on Sunday from George Russell's Mercedes with the Australian's McLaren teammate Lando Norris in third. Pole-sitter Piastri gave McLaren their first ever win in Sakhir at their 21st attempt. "That should be one hell of a party tonight. Mega weekend everyone. That was pretty damn fun," Piastri said.

Taking the chequered flag under floodlights on a balmy Sunday evening in the Gulf kingdom was just reward after a weekend he had dominated, both in practice and in qualifying. Despite an incident-packed race behind him, Piastri crossed the line 15.499s clear of Russell, who was under investigation for an issue with the DRS (drag reduction system). Charles Leclerc for Ferrari came in fourth. Lewis Hamilton was fifth ahead of Max Verstappen's Red Bull.

French toast: Maiden Monte Carlo crown for Alcaraz

AFP @ Monte Carlo

CARLOS Alcaraz won his first Monte Carlo Masters title on Sunday with a 3-6, 6-1, 6-0 victory over the Italian Lorenzo Musetti. It marks a sixth Masters title for the 21-year-old Spaniard, a four-time Grand Slam winner, and his most prestigious title since winning Wimbledon last year.

"I'm just really happy to have won Monte Carlo for the first time," said Alcaraz who lost in his first match on his only previous appearance at the tournament in 2022. "It's been a really difficult week with a lot of difficult situations.

"I'm really proud of my myself how I've dealt with everything. It's been a really difficult month for me on the court and outside. Coming here and seeing how the whole hard work has paid off, I'm really happy."

Alcaraz, who will move up a place in the rankings and displace Alexander Zverev at No 2, had to come from behind to beat the Italian who had already taken down two Top 10 players, Stefanos Tsitsipas and

Carlos Alcaraz beat Italian Lorenzo Musetti in the final | AFP

Alex de Minaur, on his way to his first Masters 1000 final.

Musetti dropped his opening service but then fought his way back into the first set as Alcaraz appeared at odds with his game. The Spaniard bounced back, however, lifting his game as he galloped through the second set 6-1.

That trend continued as Musetti began to have problems with his right leg, receiving treatment when he was 0-3 in the decider.

He battled on but could not live with the intensity or physicality of Alcaraz's game.

"Lorenzo's been through a really tough week, long and intense matches," said Alcaraz.

EXPRESS READ

MP to face Punjab in national hockey final

JHANSI: Madhya Pradesh and Punjab won their semifinal matches against Manipur and Uttar Pradesh respectively, to set up a title clash in the National Hockey Championship here. MP defeated Manipur 5-3 while Punjab beat Uttar Pradesh 4-3.

Ganguly chairperson of ICC men's cricket panel

DUBAI: Former India captain Sourav Ganguly has been re-appointed as the chairperson of the ICC men's cricket committee and his long-time national teammate VVS Laxman too has been picked again as one the panel members.

Churchill Brothers withdraw from Super Cup

NEW DELHI: Churchill Brothers have withdrawn from the Super Cup tournament starting April 20 in Bhubaneswar, protesting against the All India Football Federation's (AIFF) decision to not officially declare them as 2024-25 I-League champions, calling it a "blatant disregard of rules and precedent" by the national governing body.

Tamil Nadu surfers who medalled during the International Surf Festival in Varkala

TN surfers clinch 8 medals

ENS @ Chennai

SURFERS from Tamil Nadu were on song during the International Surf Festival held in Varkala, Kerala — the inaugural stop of the 2025 National Surfing Series. Led by Kishore Kumar, who bagged a gold medal in the open men's category, the surfers from the state claimed eight medals in total. Srikanth D and Sanjay Selvamani also climbed the podium in the same category with both taking bronze. Kishore beat defending champ Ramesh Budihal of Kerala in the final.

In the women's category, Tamil Nadu's Kamali Prakash showed plenty of promise but narrowly missed out on the top spot. She battled hard against Sugar Shanthi of Goa in a closely-contested final but eventually had to settle for silver. In the U-16 category, Harsh M was the gold winner as he beat fellow Tamil Nadu surfer Som Sethi, who won silver. Prahlad and Yogesh added to the medal tally with good finishes.

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

Liverpool inch closer to title, Man Utd thrashed

AGENCIES @ London

LIVERPOOL are within touching distance of the Premier League title after Virgil van Dijk sealed a dramatic 2-1 win over West Ham, while Newcastle climbed into the top four with a 4-1 thrashing of Manchester United on Sunday.

Luis Diaz's first-half strike at Anfield was cancelled out by Andrew Robertson's late own goal, but Van Dijk headed Liverpool's winner in the closing moments. Arne Slot's side are 13 points clear of second-placed Arsenal with six games left.

The Reds can be crowned champions on April 20, if they win at Leicester and Arsenal lose at Ipswich. Even if Liverpool don't seal the title then, it seems only a matter of time before they clinch a record-equalling 20th English crown.

After losing for only the second time in the league this season last weekend, 3-2 to Fulham at Craven Cottage, Liverpool returned to winning ways, despite an underwhelming performance, thanks to goalkeeper Alisson Becker. "Alisson probably had his best game of the season today," said Slot.

"(The winner) was a relief because to me it felt after West Ham scored and the way the second half went, it was maybe more that you could expect them scoring."

Mohamed Salah set a new Premier League record with his 45th goal or assist of the campaign, the most ever in a 38-game season, when he teed up Diaz to open the scoring on 18

Mo Salah (2nd L) & Luis Diaz (2nd R) celebrate the opening goal | AP

minutes. Alisson twice denied Mohammed Kudus and saved a one-on-one from Jarrod Bowen, but was beaten by his own man four minutes from time.

Van Dijk made a hash of clearing Aaron Wan-Bissaka's cross, deflecting it into his own net off Robertson. Reds captain Van Dijk made amends three minutes later, rising to head in Alexis Mac Allister's corner as Liverpool closed in just a second league title since 1990.

Results: Chelsea **2-2** Ipswich; Liverpool **2-1** West Ham; Wolves **4-2** Tottenham; Newcastle **4-1** Man United.

Barca edge Leganes

LEGANÉS: Barcelona needed a Jorge Saenz own goal to edge Leganes 1-0 and move seven points clear of Real Madrid at the top of La Liga on Saturday.

Second-placed champions Madrid face Alaves on Sunday and have to play catch-up after Hansi Flick's side scraped their way to a narrow but vital win on the road.

"Arms race between universities when it comes to financial aid"

Jamie Beaton, CEO and Co-Founder of Crimson Education, the overseas consultancy, sits down for a chat with Binita Jaiswal to talk about Ivy Leagues and AI

● You started Crimson at the age of 17. What pushed you to take on elite admissions at such a young age?

I grew up in New Zealand and loved education. Very few of my classmates were interested in going to Ivy League schools.

When I was 14, I met a mentor, Ben Kornfeld, who gained admission to Yale, and his story inspired me to believe maybe I could do it too.

So, going through high school, I spent a lot of time on my academics, extra-curriculars, leadership essays, and all the various pieces, and I applied to a wide range of schools like Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Stanford, Columbia and Cambridge. I found out that I had been admitted to all of them, and it was super exciting. Also, I had so many students reaching out to me to ask if I could guide them as well.

Crimson began as a give-back project to help my fellow New Zealanders, and I never looked back since.

● Where is international education heading in the post-COVID era and with the changes in immigration laws?

There's still a voracious demand for top US and UK schools because if you want to work at a global investment firm or you want to become an entrepreneur and raise millions in Silicon Valley funding, these varsities are still the best way for you to be able to break into those top tier industries. So, I'm seeing the strongest demand for top scores.

The immigration rules tend to have an impact on lower-ranking colleges, which tend to be more tied to visa and immigration than career outcomes, but the demand for top colleges has been strong for the last 10 years, and many Ivy League schools have seen a decline in acceptance rates by more than half since we began Crimson.

> **The assumption was that Ivy Leagues could only be attended by elite business families. Now, financial aid has brought it down to who can get in**
>
> Jamie Beaton

● Do you see AI and automation having an impact or changing the way students are preparing for elite admissions?

I would say generative AI is changing the process, and it enables students to get better academic success because you can actually use AI as a tutor, at least for certain kinds of questions.

When used responsibly, an AI tutor can be a powerful tool for students. It's also very powerful for students from lower income backgrounds, because they can access many tutors. It's not quite as good as elite tutors, but AI provides value for the kind of core questions students might have.

● Do you think students from Indian or South Asian countries are opting for countries like the UK, Canada or even Singapore, for that matter, over the US?

The top schools, I would say, the Ivy League schools, the top 40 US schools and the top 10 UK schools are very robust in terms of their demand. What we do see is as immigration rules change in countries like Canada, Australia and the UK, the volume and some of the schools with low ranks tend to gyrate around quite dramatically. Also, due to the recent Trump election hysteria, people are thinking about applying to more countries as well.

In general, the US is still the first choice. I would say the demand for top US schools is actually rising more than ever. And so I would say it's a tale of two worlds, between those top universities and everything else.

● What is one major international education trend that no one is talking about?

There is actually an arms race going on between the universities when it comes to financial aid.

What I mean by this is that Harvard recently announced that if your family earns less than 200,000 US dollars, which is most of the world, tuition is free, which is a major breakthrough. Other schools like MIT have announced similar, competing policies. All of this is actually amazing for a candidate, because it means that if you're a student applying in India or applying from, for example, Australia, you can gain admission to these top schools. There's a very high chance you can afford it, thanks to these scholarships.

"Many Indian counsellors need to offer perspective to students"

Kunal Mehra, CEO & MD, of Crimson Education speaks to Binita Jaiswal on state board students applying to the US

● Many of the Indian schools don't offer IB curriculum. How can students planning to apply to Ivy League colleges still make their profile competitive?

Admission officers in the US are very open to seeing students from a variety of backgrounds. The only concern they often have with Indian students is whether the curriculum has been rigorous or whether the grades accurately reflect a child's actual competence.

There's been a bit of grade inflation in India over the last 20 years, where kids are now scoring 100 of 100 in English. This begs the question whether it's easy to get these scores or is the child as good as the scores indicate. To eliminate this, I encourage students to write the AP (Advance Placement) exam.

> **This year, we have more students from the Indian curriculum getting admitted to top 10 schools than from IP or A level. So no one should get complacent**
>
> Kunal Mehra

● Are Ivy League colleges fairly evaluating Indian State Boards?

I can say with a fair amount of confidence that universities are not discriminating against students on the basis of a certain curriculum.

However, it's very difficult for an American admission officer to understand what is the difference between Tamil Nadu State Board versus Maharashtra State Board versus another state board, right? And in these scenarios, what happens is they're unable to interpret the scores correctly. So, the burden is a little bit on the child to demonstrate that they are excelling academically.

The other challenge with state boards is that different state boards have different marking schemes. There is no parity, which is why doing the AP exam will enable a state board student to create the same academic record.

I've had state board students getting admitted to MIT and Cornell, so it's not that they don't look at these state board students.

● One misconception Indian students have while applying for US/UK colleges?

The biggest misconception Indian students have is that it's just about checking the boxes of what colleges are looking for and doing certain things that will get them in. We have seen students forming clubs even when they're not interested.

One needs to understand that the universities are looking at impact, not from an adult's lens, but from the student's view. Most importantly, they're looking at what you learnt.

The other misconception is that there are certain activities preferred to portray oneself as well-rounded. That you need to play music or a sport, or that you need to do social work. We believe admission officers actually don't like well-rounded students. They like students who are well-lopsided. (When) you have a fair diversity of interests, maybe three or four things, but there are one or two things that you really deeply invest in building.

● How can Indian applicants fare in terms of financial aid, especially the middle-income families?

The ground reality of applying to colleges, especially in the US or UK, is that there are limited scholarships and aid available to international students. However, there are schools categorised for international students and these schools are willing to offer as much support as you need.

You need to apply to schools which are known to provide scholarships versus applying to a school which does not have the budget to do so.

There are several liberal arts schools which offer full scholarships to Indian students. US' liberal arts schools don't necessarily teach humanities. These are smaller, independent colleges in the US, which are generous with scholarships and aid for international students.

PICS: THIRU DS

● How can counsellors help students applying abroad to enhance their chances of selection?

Counsellors need to provide a students with a perspective on the spectrum of opportunities available in the US. The school or counsellor needs to guide the student as to what is a good fit school for them in the US after analysing their choices and interest patterns.

Many counsellors don't realise the importance of recommendation letters. It's important to dig deep into the child's profile and represent them correctly.

WHAT'S IN THEIR BAGS?

Life abroad comes with its own quirks, so here's a peek into what international students carry in their backpacks

INTERNATIONAL students everywhere need the same basics: laptop, charger, maybe a snack or two. But look a little closer, and you'll notice some very country-specific additions — things that reflect the culture, climate, and campus vibe of where they've landed. *Here's a look at what's inside the bags of students across five popular study destinations:*

- Campus ID • Reusable coffee cup • Pepper spray (yes, really) • Noise-cancelling headphones • A part-time job schedule
- Oyster card (London transport pass) • Umbrella (non-negotiable) • Tesco meal deal (saviour of broke students) • Tube map screenshot • Hand sanitiser
- Indoor shoes (for certain buildings) • Onigiri or convenience store snack • Suica/Pasmo transit card • Mini towel (used a lot!) • Stationery pouch (Japanese students go hard on this)
- Health insurance card • Bike lock keys • Multilingual train app • Cash (many places still don't take cards!) • Refillable bottle (eco-consciousness runs deep)
- Sunscreen • Opal card (or local equivalent) • Gym gear (campus gyms are popular) • Flat white takeout • Flip flops in the side pocket

BONUS: No matter the country, every bag has tangled earphones, some emergency paracetamol, and a pen that doesn't work.

Broke abroad? Here's the monthly math

Students often underestimate how expensive living abroad can be... until they land

TUITION fees get all the attention, but what really drains your wallet are the day-to-day living costs — and they vary wildly depending on where you study. Here's what a typical month looks like in four popular student cities (₹conversion based on average exchange rates as of April 2025)

London

Rent (shared):	₹75,000
Food & groceries:	₹18,000
Transport:	₹8,000
Health insurance:	₹5,000
Misc (laundry, SIM, going out):	₹9,000

Total: ₹1,15,000/month

Hidden sting: *You pay rent monthly, but transport & bills often weekly. It adds up fast.*

Boston

Rent (shared): ₹85,000
Food & groceries: ₹22,000
Transport: ₹7,000
Health insurance: ₹12,000
Misc: ₹10,000

Total: ₹1,36,000/month

Hidden sting: *Textbooks can cost ₹5,000–₹10,000 per subject.*

Berlin

Rent (shared): ₹45,000
Food & groceries: ₹16,000
Transport: ₹3,500
Health insurance: ₹6,500
Misc: ₹7,000

Total: ₹78,000/month

Hidden sting: *Public universities may be free, but visa rules require proof of funds.*

Sydney

Rent (shared): ₹70,000
Food & groceries: ₹20,000
Transport: ₹6,000
Health insurance: ₹7,000
Misc: ₹8,500

Total: ₹1,11,500/month

Hidden sting: *Eating out is pricey, so cooking at home is often a must.*

Packing panic!

What to carry, what to bury...

FOR EVERY INDIAN STUDENT HEADING ABROAD WHO OVERPACKS AND UNDERPREPARES (WHICH IS JUST ABOUT MOST OF US)

YOU'VE GOT 30 kg of baggage allowance and a heart full of panic. What do you take? What do you leave? Here's a visual checklist that saves you from passport-photo-level regret.

DEFINITELY PACK THIS

Universal adapter: It's never in stock when you land.

Pressure cooker: Every Indian flat has one, and you'll miss it more than your ex.

Basic meds: Paracetamol, Vicks, allergy meds — these cost 5x abroad.

Winter jacket: Especially if you're headed to the UK, US, or Germany.

Spices in labelled ziplocks: Not too much, not too little.

Flip-flops & bathroom slippers: Dorm bathrooms aren't known for charm.

Document folder: Passport, visa, academic records—carry this in cabin baggage.

LEAVE THIS BEHIND

Heavy textbooks: You won't read them. You'll just resent them.

Multiple formal outfits: One is enough unless you're attending the Met Gala.

Big utensils: Pots and pans are cheap and locally sized.

Pressure cooker #2: Yes, people pack two.

All the food your mom wants to send: Customs might not agree.

Bonus: Things people wish they packed

- Nail cutter • Power bank
- Sewing kit (for buttons and last-minute karma)
- Set of passport-size photos

ChatGPT to the rescue? Or rejection?

AI is the new study buddy. But when it comes to college applications, it's a minefield. With AI tools just a click away, students are using it to brainstorm ideas, fix grammar, even write essays. What's okay? What could get flagged?

YOU CAN USE AI FOR...

Brainstorming – Prompt it like a sounding board: "What makes a good college essay?"

Structuring your SOP – It can help you organise your thoughts logically.

Proofreading and grammar – Spotting typos, rephrasing awkward sentences.

Research prep – Quick summaries of colleges, courses, or statement expectations.

Tip: Always rephrase in your voice. AI can help, but your story is yours.

AVOID USING AI FOR...

Writing the entire essay – Admissions officers can tell. Tone mismatch, generic phrasing.

Copy-pasting responses – Not your experience? Don't claim it.

Answering supplemental questions– These are meant to reflect your personal fit.

Letters of recommendation– You're not supposed to write those, period.

WHAT DO ADMISSIONS OFFICERS SAY?

Many now use AI detectors as part of their screening. But beyond tools, what they're really looking for is authenticity, vulnerability, and voice — things AI still can't replicate.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS City

Bengaluru Express

READSHAREFOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
Mail us: bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com

14.04.2025
MONDAY

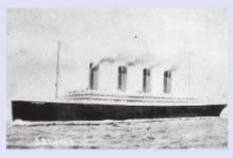
DAY'S DIARY

Sinking of Titanic

Royal Mail Ship (RMS) Titanic, a British luxury passenger liner sank in 1912 during its maiden voyage, en route to NYC from Southampton, England

SAFETY MEASURES IN VAIN

It was the largest and most luxurious ship in the world. It had 16 watertight compartments designed to keep it afloat if damaged. This led to the belief that the ship was unsinkable



THE LOOPHOLES

The bulkheads were not capped at the top. The builders claimed that four of the compartments could be flooded without endangering the liner's buoyancy

NEW POLICIES

The sinking of the RMS Titanic prompted countries with shipping interests in the North Atlantic to improve communications at sea

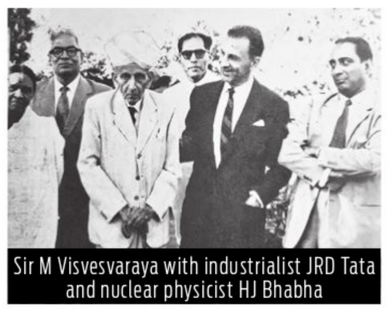
CE's guide to happenings in the city

PG 2

Satish Mokshagundam, Sir M Visvesvaraya's grand-nephew, shares his early memories and fond anecdotes of the legendary engineer beyond professional taglines

Sir M Visvesvaraya with his grand-nephew Satish Mokshagundam

Sir M Visvesvaraya and his family with former Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru



Sir M Visvesvaraya with industrialist JRD Tata and nuclear physicist HJ Bhabha

DAMS TO DREAMS THAT LIVE ON

ANJALI RAM

MOKSHAGUNDAM Visvesvaraya, fondly known as Sir M Visvesvaraya, is a name familiar to all Bengalureans. As they hear the announcement of Sir M Visvesvaraya station or while they pass by the Visvesvaraya Tower, the name serves as a reminder of what he meant to the state – an administrator, civil engineer, and statesman who served as the 19th Dewan of Mysore from 1912 to 1918. On his 63rd death anniversary today, Satish Mokshagundam, Visvesvaraya's grand-nephew, shares a vivid glimpse into the personal life, values, and legacy of the man behind the legend.

Hailing from a small district called Mokshagundam in Andhra Pradesh, Visvesvaraya's ancestors, according to Satish, moved to Karnataka 300 years ago. Born into poverty, he faced many hardships. His father, a priest, barely made ends meet. Yet, with sheer determination in the power of education, he rose against the odds. "During his studies, he stayed at a free hostel in Chamarajpet, where he once ran short of money. He walked 60 kilometres to Muddenahalli from Bengaluru as there were no buses at that time," shares Satish, who is currently the president of the Visvesvaraya National Memorial Trust, Museum Road, which maintains the house where Visvesvaraya was born.

A city-based business man, Satish also reflects on Visvesvaraya's relationships with national leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, stating, "Gandhi always felt that rural industries would bring prosperity to India. And Visvesvaraya felt that large industries and heavy industries would bring prosperity." Satish also shares how, when Nehru awarded Visvesvaraya the Bharat Ratna in 1955, he wrote back graciously yet firmly stating his approach to nation-building, adding that 'he would still criticise' the government if there was a mistake.

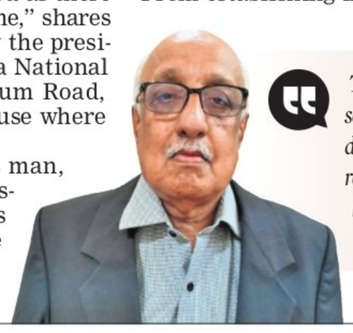
Perhaps the most interesting are the stories Satish shares of Visvesvaraya's habits and treatment of his family. "He had a very systematic way of living. 7 o'clock on the dot was breakfast time at home. 12, lunchtime. At four, he used to have a glass of mosambi juice. And at eight, dinner. Before we left for our school, we had to go and see him. And then, when we came back, and before he left for his walk, he would come, ask us how the school was," Satish reminisces. He also adds how, despite Visvesvaraya's famed strictness, he was gentle, especially with children. "Once, when I had my tonsillitis operation, he sent his staff to check on me and later, visited me. There was a lot of affection between him and all of us," notes Satish.

According to Satish, Visvesvaraya's discipline extended even to rewards. "Thatha had this thing about giving gifts when you passed high school or SSLC. And in 1953, one of my cousins got first-class distinction. So he told him to come collect the gift. But he received ₹75 instead of ₹100 for being 25 minutes late – he cut one rupee per minute," Satish recalls, laughing. From establishing institutions like the State Bank of Mysore and the All India Manufacturers' Association, to clubs meant for community problem-solving, Visvesvaraya always placed value in knowledge and civic responsibility as tools for the progress of the nation. As Satish notes, "He was strict with time but full of love. If five per cent of everything he said was followed by students today, their attitudes would drastically change; he always felt that one could do a lot of things in youth."

Sir M Visvesvaraya with the former Maharaja of Mysore, Jayachamarajendra Wadiyar

Shaping a Diamond

One of the most striking stories recounted by Satish of young Visvesvaraya was how he was almost denied admission due to being late in paying his college fees. The then-principal Charles Waters intervened, paying his fees and becoming a lifelong mentor. "When principal Waters saw him, maybe he must have thought in his mind that Visvesvaraya was a bright student. From there, neither forgot the other," says Satish, adding, "In Waters' will he had mentioned Visvesvaraya as his 'best student'."



Thatha had this thing about giving gifts when you passed high school or SSLC. And in 1953, one of my cousins got first-class distinction. So he told him to come collect the gift. But he received ₹75 instead of ₹100 for being 25 minutes late – he cut one rupee per minute

Satish Mokshagundam, Sir M Visvesvaraya's grand-nephew

CITY READ

Tickets for Peppa Pig live from Apr 15

BookMyShow is set to bring a theatrical tour of Peppa Pig to the city on June 7 at Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte. Exclusive presale of tickets for Kotak credit card customers will begin on April 15 at 12 pm on bookmyshow.com whereas general sale of tickets will go live on April 17 at 4pm. Designed especially for young audiences and their families, the show promises to be a fun-filled sensory experience that will have children singing, laughing, and clapping along throughout the performance.

Athletic championship held on Saturday

Cult Unbound by Cult.fit recently brought thousands of athletes, including pro boxer and two-time world champion Nikhat Zareen, to KTPO, Whitefield for its inaugural edition as the venue transformed into a hub of athleticism. Athletes competed across eight functional workout zones, with formats designed to include all genders, age groups, and fitness levels, creating space for everyone from first-time challengers to seasoned pros. In a single day, participants completed over 50,000 repetitions, moved more than 10,000 kilograms of fitness equipment through pushing, pulling, and lifting, while covering approximately 1,400 kilometres of running and rowing. Prizes and giveaways worth ₹10,00,000, including a ₹6,00,000 cash prize pool, were distributed among the top performers.

Hearty Harvest

Relish Kerala's harvest delicacies with a carefully prepared Vishu sadya while staff dressed in traditional attire create an immersive experience. With a bountiful assortment of more than 24 sumptuous dishes on offer, taste the savoury flavours of avial, thoran, kootu curry, alongside a medley of sweet payasams.

WHEN: April 14, 12.30pm
WHERE: F5 at Hilton Garden Inn, Nagawara
CALL: 8210144392

Taste of Tradition

Take your loved ones along for a Vishu sadya which brings you culinary delights to light up the occasion. Highlights include pineapple pachadi, naraga curry, uniappam, kaippakka theeyal, banana chips, sharkara varati, and more.

WHEN: April 14, 12.30pm
WHERE: Mannheim Craft Brewery, Bellandur
CALL: 96633 95482

Authentic Aromas

Join in for a sumptuous sadya of authentic flavours served on a traditional banana leaf. Enjoy a delicious spread of Kerala sadya complete with avial, sambar, pachadi, kichadi, olan, kalan, assortment of payasam, and more.

WHEN: April 14, 12pm onwards
WHERE: The Paul, Domlur
CALL: 080 4047 7777

WELCOME the Malayali new year, Vishu, by indulging in the authentic flavours of Kerala brought to you by numerous venues across the city serving Vishu sadya. Take your loved ones along, share a meal together, and usher in warmth and prosperity.

Compiled by Aakansha Munshi

Vish-U a Happy New Year!

Take a bite of mouth-watering traditional Kerala cuisine this Vishu

Lavish Lunch

Experience the authentic flavours of Kerala with a special lunch session. Savour regional delicacies like avial, meen moilee, kozhi roast, mampazha pulissery, and the much-loved chakka ada, curated to bring the true spirit of Vishu to your table.

WHEN: April 14, 12pm onwards
WHERE: Karavalli at Vivanta Bengaluru, Residency Road
CALL: 95386 38137

Regal Recipes

A leaf. A moment. A meal worth remembering. This Vishu, indulge in a grand sadya with authentic flavours served on a traditional banana leaf. Feast on more than 20 vegetarian dishes that capture the essence of home with a gourmet twist!

WHEN: April 14, 12pm onwards
WHERE: Gokulam Grand, Jalahalli
CALL: 95355 55955

Sacred Supper

Treat yourself with a feast that brings you the taste of the season. Choose from a menu that features delicacies such as njalipoovan pazham, pappadam, sharkkaravaratti, inchi puli, cabbage thoran, and more!

WHEN: April 14, 11.30am onwards
WHERE: Restaurant Chef Pillai, Whitefield and Brigade Road
CALL: 89431 50000

S.S. FOOTWARE
M: 9900887246
No. 14/349, 5th Main, 6th Cross, Manjunathnagar, Bangalore-10.

A.P.J. ENTERPRISES
Anand .P Mob: 9845534985
Shankar .P 9845602692
WHOLESALE & RETAIL CEMENT DEALERS
We under take all kinds of Building construction Materials
ACC ACC LIMITED
RAMCO Authorised Dealer
#33/1, 17th Cross, Lakshmipuram, C.M.H. Road, Bangalore-560008.

VEERUPAKSHI JEMS
M: 9903802256
No. 95, 4th Cross, 8th Main, Near Annapoorneshwari Hotel, W.O.C Road, Bangalore

Divine Estates
Reality redefined...
Features
• Grand Entrance with Boulevard • Individual Plots with fencing, gate & plumbing line • Common borewell & water connection • Tree plantation along with the boundries • Children play area • 20 Fruit bearing one year old plants in each plots
Proximity from important Landmarks is as below.
• 70 Minutes Esteem Mall, towards Bagepalli
Plot Sizes : 10,890 sft / 12768 sft / 13,167 sft / 14,120 sft
Plot for Sale @ Best Price 250/- per sft
Mob: 9738329195, 8050016696 Email: divineestates.hyd@gmail.com What's App Only : 9738943359 / Ready for Registration EMI Available

ACHIEVE DETECTIVE SERVICES
(All Types of Investigations)
❖Employment Verification
❖Surveillance & Shadowing
❖Matrimonial Verification
❖Under Cover Operation
❖Thefts Investigation
❖Finger Prints Handwriting Verification
❖Business Competitors Intelligence
❖Leakage of Information
❖Verification of Assets.
SF,8, No. 137, Business Point, Sandeep Medicals, Next to Brigade Towers, Brigade Road, Bangalore-560025.
M: 9844080214 / 9845100187

Sri Lakshmi Venkateshwara Prasanna
IGNITED MINDS
Educational Academy
PUC Subjects Offered
• Physics • Mathematics
• Computer Science • Chemistry
• Biology • Languages
Students to be guided with laboratory experiments
9353597030/9380806057
#72, 3rd Main, 9th Cross, Sri Hari Layout, Jnanajyothinagar, Ullal Main Road, Bangalore - 56. (Near Saroja Memorial School)

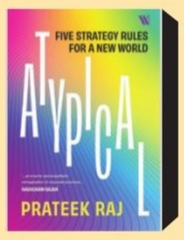
NOVA
BADMINTON ACADEMY
Summer Camp
Academy Achievements
01 Summer Camp Batch 01 Apr to 31st May
10:00 Am to 01:00 Pm (Mon-Fri)
Scientifically Designed Coaching
Evaluation of current proficiency levels
Scientific warmup, fitness and agility development Fun games + Weekends Included
Starts From: ₹1500/- Only
7760971583 / 7899529345
Venue: 10th Cross, Jnanajyothinagar, Ullal Main Road Bengaluru.

Jayvel Enterprise
Eco Friendly Recycling
A. Lokanath: 9448489803
A. Mohan: 9448489805
A.Sreenivasan: 9448489804
Office: 282, 1st Main Road, Chamrajpet, Bangalore- 560018, Tel. 080-26702060
Factory: Plot No. 26A, KIADB Malur Industrial Area, Malur Taluk, Kolar District, Pin-563130 (Karnataka) Tel, 081-51233937
E-mail: purchase@jayvel.in, sales@jayvel.in, info@jayvel.in

HASINA PROVISION STORE
No. 795, 2nd Cross, Shivanagar, Bangalore-10,
M: 7259560637

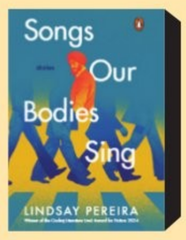
M.V. Ganesh
Mobile: 98443 29335
Phone : 080-26764866
Since: 1956
Krishna & Co.,
Jewellers ❖ Diamond Merchants & Silver Smiths
#46/1, South End Road, Basavanagudi, (Next to Gandhi Medical Stores)
BENGALURU-560 004. E-mail: ganeshmv1958@gmail.com
Timings: 10.30 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. & 4.30 to 8.00 p.m.

BOOK NOOK



Atypical
by Prateek Raj

A path-breaking book that provides a refreshing perspective to the principles of business, management, and economics for our times. It gives a five point framework towards a sustainable and resilient future.

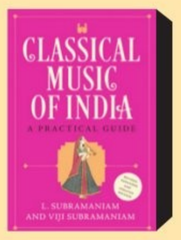


Songs Our Bodies Sing
by Lindsay Pereira

A heartbroken father in London turns to The Beatles to make sense of what he has lost, an antique dealer in Bombay rejects jingoism in favour of racism, two immigrants in Toronto look for ways of belonging with a local rock band, and in Paris, a tourist starts to question long-held ideas about trust.

The Accused
by Vasundhara

A brutal murder brings complex emotions to the new Inspector who is entangled with the case. A famous actress gets wrapped in a mystery that deepens with every turn. The book uncovers crime that is deep-rooted in society.



Classical Music Of India: A Practical Guide
by L Subramaniam and Viji Subramaniam

Music is an art form which connects deeply with spirituality, rituals and important life events in India. The book discusses melody and rhythm, as the author delves deep into the origin and spirit of this music system.

FROM THE (HE)ART

Viewers enjoy a retrospective show of artist MTV Acharya curated by Shivanand Basavanthappa at Indian Institute of World Culture, Basavanagudi | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

QUICKFIX

PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY MILKSHAKE

Contributed by **Megan D'Souza,** Panjim

INGREDIENTS

- **Vanilla ice cream:** 4 scoops
- **Peanut butter:** 2 tbsp
- **Peanuts:** 2 tbsp, crushed for garnish
- **Milk:** 1/2 cup
- **Strawberry jam or jelly:** 2 tbsp

METHOD

- Spread peanut butter on the rims of two glasses, also add crushed peanuts onto the rims.
- Swirl jam or jelly inside each glass and freeze glasses.
- In a blender, combine ice cream, milk, peanut butter, and jam and blend until smooth.
- Pour the milkshake into the prepared glasses and serve immediately.

ASK AN XPERT

DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi.

I am training my 3-year-old rabbit. However, despite a year of living with me, he's unable to respond when I call him by his name. How can I train him better?

Training your rabbit to respond to its name requires patience and consistency. Use a calm, soothing voice when calling his name, and always pair it with positive reinforcement like treats or petting. Call his name when he's paying attention to you, and reward him right away when he acknowledges you, even if it's just a glance. Keep training sessions brief and frequent – five to 10 minutes – and avoid negative reinforcement. With time, he'll learn to associate his name with positive rewards, making it easier for him to respond.

FITBIT

ARDHA PARSVOTTANASANA HASTA VIMANASANA BEHIND BACK

(HALF PYRAMID POSE AIRPLANE HANDS BEHIND)

This is a variation of Intense Side Stretch Pose Hands On Hips, with a difference of extending the hands behind with the palms facing to each other at the shoulder level. This helps prepare for the final foundational yoga pose – Parsvottanasana (Intense Side Stretch Pose). This pose is included in yoga sequences for almost all, especially for those in active sports. It removes stiffness in the shoulders and heals minor shoulder problems or mild pains.

STEPS

- Start in Tadasana (Mountain Pose), legs together, and take a few deep breaths.
- Inhale, stretch the spine, walk or jump to spread your legs sideways 3-3½ feet, with your hands on the waist in Prasarita Tadasana Hands On Hips.
- Turn the body towards left, bringing the left foot out to about 90 degrees, turning the right foot to about 40 degrees inwards. Place the feet firmly on the floor. Square the hips without pinching the lower back, ensuring the hips and chest align.
- Stand with your feet apart and your torso upright, inhale, move your shoulders backwards, keep your arms down, close to the body.
- While exhaling, bend forward in a halfway forward fold, making your torso parallel to the ground.
- Align your arms back like the wings of a bird ready to fly before spreading it wide apart.
- Stay here, keeping the back flat and parallel to the ground for about six breaths.
- Inhale, slowly come back to the center in Prasarita Tadasana Hands On Hips. Then counter the stretch on the other side.
- Finally, return to Prasarita Tadasana Hands On Hips and jump back in Mountain Pose Palms Facing Forward and relax.

BENEFITS

- Stretches back legs muscles, hamstrings and calves.
- Strengthens quadriceps, neck, lower back, feet, and ankles.
- Helps prepare legs and back for a complete forward bend.
- Helps to gain better breath-body awareness.
- Conscious expansion of the chest creates space for the lungs to expand as well.
- Benefits functioning of the heart and lungs, improving breathing.
- Enhances body balance. and flexibility.
- Builds sthiram and Sukham, improving strength.
- Can gradually gain mental strength.
- Strengthens upper and middle spine, neck, and shoulders.
- Relaxes accumulated stress and tension in body.
- Fresh flow of prana.
- Stimulates digestive system.
- Effective in curing constipation problems.
- Tones the spleen, kidney, liver, and reproductive organs.
- Treats sacroiliac joint pains or mild sciatica.
- Helps players before athletic events.

LIMITATIONS

- Students with injuries on knees, hips, ankles, lower back, shoulders, hamstring, abdominal hernia, have undergone recent hip or abdominal surgery, have acute lower back pain, problems related to HBP, vertigo, dizziness, severe arthritis, chest pain, or shortness of breath, should avoid this.
- Students experiencing general body weakness, headaches, or joint pain should bring it to the knowledge of the yoga teacher before practising it.
- Seniors with knee, hip, or ankle joints issues should take it slow.
- Pregnant women should practise under the guidance of a yoga expert.

By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Mallu Music

Join a fun-filled festive night at an event where DJ South Soul will be spinning some crazy Malayalam tracks to make your Vishu experience a great one. Take your friends to this venue for a musical celebration of the upcoming occasion!

WHEN: April 14, 9pm
WHERE: Sugar Factory Reloaded, Koramangala **DETAILS:** district.in

Taste of Tradition

Experience the joy and warmth of Baisakhi through a specially curated dining experience where lantern-lit interiors, earthy textures, and the soothing melodies create the perfect setting. Delicacies include kulhad shakarkandi chaat, dhingri pudina shorba, makhan fish, and more.

WHEN: April 14, 12.30pm onwards
WHERE: Loya at Taj West End, Race Course Road
CALL: 80666 05660

Just for Laughs

Grab your passes for a chance to watch some of the best comics from all over the country under one roof. With a surprising line-up, this one-hour-long event might be a refreshing start to your week ahead.

WHEN: April 14, 11pm
WHERE: The Comedy Theatre, Church Street
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Match Mania

Celebrate the IPL season with incredible food, amazing cocktails, and unbeatable offers as a massive 40-foot 4K screen displays all the matches at this venue. Pair the action with a few games or a round of bowling with your friends while you're at it!

WHEN: April 14 onwards, 12pm
WHERE: Dave & Buster's, Koramangala
CALL: 98671 35705

Dance Delight

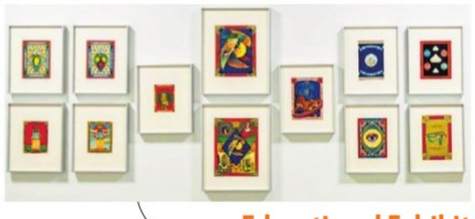
Attend a performance that combines songs and rites from the Balkans and Europe with the Baul tradition and other Indian song and dance repertoire. Get ready for an evening that traces the intimacy and, at the same time, the communal and unifying nature of the laments.

WHEN: April 15, 7.30pm
WHERE: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar
CALL: 80264 93982

Soothing Salts

Boost your well-being and experience the soothing effects of pure air enriched with salt minerals with a salt-cave experience. Breathe in the goodness of nature, rejuvenate your senses, and embark on a journey to enhanced health and wellness.

WHEN: April 14, 10am
WHERE: Salt World, HSR Layout
DETAILS: allevents.in



Educational Exhibit

Attend this exhibit where Soumyadeep Dasgupta weaves a story through the intricately-designed textile labels from the 19th and 20th centuries. Learn how to move beyond the surface and engage with art in a truly meaningful way through this educational event. **WHEN:** April 15, 5pm **WHERE:** Museum of Art and Photography, Kasturba Road **DETAILS:** map-india.org

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

@XpressBengaluru/@tniefeatures
bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
@xpress_bengaluru

ARTCORNER

URBAN DILEMMA

Artist Lal Bahadur Singh juxtaposes nature against the stark geometry of urbanisation in a thought-provoking artwork

SPEAKING OF SAMSARA

The dance production *Sonnet of Samsara* uses the expressive language of movement to explore themes of life, memory, and human experience

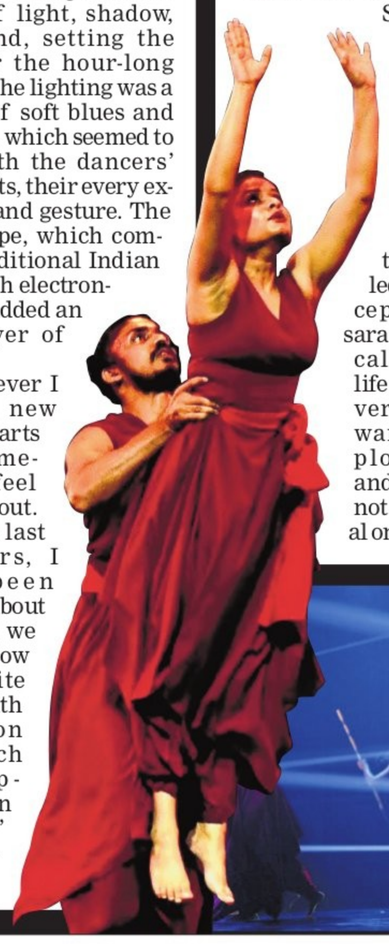
PARVANA K B

JAYACHANDRAN Palazhy, a well-known choreographer, and the artistic director of Attakkalari Centre for Movement Arts, Bengaluru, recently took his new dance production, *Sonnet of Samsara*, to Thiruvananthapuram.

As the curtains rose, the stage was changed into a canvas of light, shadow, and sound, setting the mood for the hour-long journey. The lighting was a balance of soft blues and fiery reds, which seemed to pulse with the dancers' movements, their every expression and gesture. The soundscape, which combined traditional Indian music with electronic notes, added an extra layer of depth.

"Whenever I create a new work, it starts with something I feel deeply about. Over the last few years, I have been thinking about the world we live in, how it's a finite system with limits on how much development it can sustain," says Palazhy, continuing, "I felt strongly that we needed to learn how to manage and share our resources, whether cultural, intellectual, material, or financial, more thoughtfully. Connected to these thoughts, I began thinking about who we are as individuals, shaped by memories, myths, dreams, and experiences. Though we live in the present, we have all these layers. Sometimes, we don't get a chance to recognise that."

Palazhy also mentions that contemplating these aspects led to the concept of 'samsara' – the cyclical nature of life and the universe. "I also wanted to explore myths and memories, not just personal ones but those passed down through generations," he says, continuing, "Inspired by thinkers like Joseph Campbell, I saw each of us as heroes on our own journeys, facing challenges and transformations. Basically, the work is a poetic reflection on human experience, shaped by stories, dreams, and our collective consciousness."

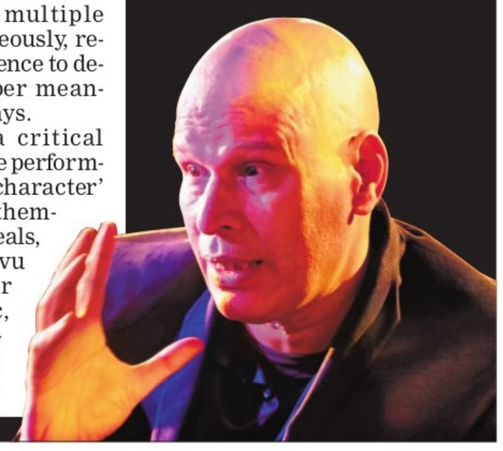


Sonnet of Samsara goes beyond exploring the cyclical nature of existence and karmic transformations. It also highlights modern urban challenges and global issues such as environmental crises, climate change, wars, and social divisions. Interestingly, the performance combines elements of Indian traditions like Kalarippayattu and Bharatanatyam and uses a mix of ritual art, stylised movements, and everyday gestures to engage the audience.

"Just as visual artists use simple colours or patterns to evoke emotions without a figurative image, movement can do the same by connecting the body to larger universal energies," Palazhy says. He also explains that the performance becomes an abstract space where gestures, patterns, and movements suggest emotions. "Through improvisation and meditation, movements evolved to suggest not just physical gestures but larger emotional and philosophical concepts. These movements occupy multiple spaces simultaneously, requiring the audience to decipher the deeper meanings," Palazhy says.

> *Inspired by thinkers like Joseph Campbell, I saw each of us as heroes on our own journeys, facing challenges and transformations. The work is a poetic reflection on human experience, shaped by stories, dreams, and our collective consciousness*
>
> Jayachandran Palazhy, director, Attakkalari Centre for Movement Arts, Bengaluru

The music, a critical component of the performance, is also a 'character' as the dancers themselves. As he reveals, "We used mizhavu and edakka for the live music, along with a pre-composed score by MD Pallavi. She is a talented singer and composer, and her music adapts beautifully to the core idea of the performance. Also, we worked with a diverse group of artistes, including Japanese digital artist Kunihiko Matsuo, Kalaripayattu aces, and mizhavu percussionists, bringing together different cultural elements to the performance."

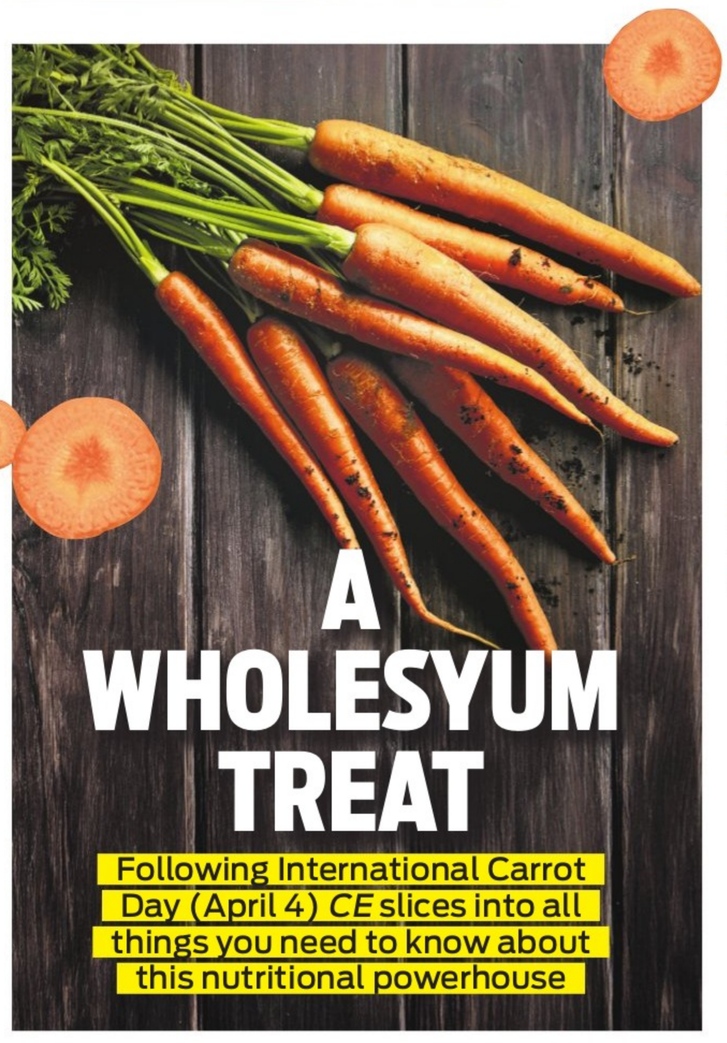


Carrot Ginger Mojito

Ingredients

- 4 small carrots
- 2 apples
- 1 small knob of ginger
- 1 round slice of lemon (about 3 cm wide, including skin)
- Mint leaves from 2 sprigs
- Cold sparkling water

Method: Wash and prepare all the ingredients by peeling the carrots and ginger, if desired. Cut the apples into smaller pieces to fit into the juicer. Place the carrots, apples, ginger, and lemon slice into a juicer and extract the juice. Pour the fresh juice into a tall glass or a large jar. Top with cold sparkling water and gently stir to combine. Garnish with fresh mint leaves and serve immediately



A WHOLESYUM TREAT

Following International Carrot Day (April 4) *CE* slices into all things you need to know about this nutritional powerhouse

APARNA NAIR

THE drink looks ravishingly purple with an orangey hue to it. It tastes very purple too – the smell of mustard, ginger, pepper, and a dash of asafoetida makes it tangy and slightly pungent.

The effect of the sun on the drink, which was left to ferment for two days, is palpable in its taste – there is a fiery texture as it flows down the throat. But what stands out amid all this is the presence of sliced, alluring pieces of salted carrots though there are tidbits of the orange kind as well.

This probiotic drink, made from carrots and ground mustard, is a staple in Northern India during the winter, when carrots, especially the dark orange variety, are grown in abundance across the plains.

Come to think of it, carrots were never native to India: they were first introduced from Afghanistan and Persia. These regions were the initial growers of carrots, from where the plant spread to the Mediterranean, Europe, and beyond.

Some taxonomic references even suggest that carrots were first cultivated more for their aromatic leaves than their roots. Carrot seeds have been found in Switzerland and Southern Germany, dating back to 2000 BC.

Colonial cousins

As an edible root, the carrot's story in popular history probably begins around the 10th century. Carrots are also mentioned in ancient Greek texts and are arguably one of the most widely travelled plant species, spreading from one region to another due to conquests and colonisation.

A white variety is believed to have originated in Europe. These early carrots were wild, gradually domesticated between the 10th and 12th centuries. Initially, the most common ones were either yellow or purple. The now-familiar orange variety emerged much later, in the 16th century, following selective breeding.

India has records of the root being used in Mughal kitchens even earlier – though it was the Persian purple variety. Eventually, the orange variant began to be cultivated in India and is now a staple in households across the country.

Nutritional powerhouse

A biennial plant belonging to the Apiaceae family, carrot is sensitive during its growth phase and prone to pests and diseases. But once mature, it is easy to harvest and preserve.

Carrots are valued not only for their flavour but also for their medicinal properties. In fact, they were used more as medicine during the medieval period, particularly in countries like China. Rich in beta-carotene and a major source of Vitamin A, carrots are widely believed to benefit eyesight. A popular wartime myth claimed British pilots could see in the dark because they ate carrots, when in reality, it was due to the introduction of radar.

Carrots are cultivated in sandy beds, raised mounds, or sown directly in the ground, and take two to three months to harvest. Though traditionally a winter crop, carrots are now available year-round in both fresh and processed forms.

One of the most striking features of carrots is their high water content – almost 88 per cent – and negligible fat. As much as 100g of raw carrots provide just 41 calories, along with a rich supply of Vitamin A, a moderate amount of Vitamin K and potassium, and low levels of other micronutrients. Carrots are also a great vitamin A source, as beta-carotene is converted into vitamin A in the small intestine.

Healthy bite

Carrot was the first vegetable recognised as safe for use in the biopharmaceutical industry. Its by-products have been found to positively impact blood pressure, infections, asthma, and atherosclerosis.

Its dietary fibre helps relieve constipation, regulate blood sugar, and promote heart health. Vitamin A and its metabolite, retinoic acid, support foetal development, reproduction, lung function, and immunity.

Carrots are also widely used in cosmetics: retinoic acid enhances skin texture, Vitamin A aids hair growth, and antioxidants support liver detoxification. Their low fat and high fibre content make them ideal for weight loss. A lesser-known benefit is their natural dental use – carrots can help clean teeth much like a toothbrush.

Carrots are as popular raw as they are cooked. In India, they feature prominently in a variety of cuisines. Cooking or pulping carrots releases beta-carotene more effectively. While the leaves are edible, they are rarely used – except occasionally in stir-fries or salads.

Yum is the word

Carrots have a subtle, inherent sweetness that can be elevated in desserts. Indian cuisine celebrates this in the beloved sweet dish gajar ka halwa. Beyond that, carrots are used in salads, spicy rice dishes, jams, chutneys, juices, cakes, and preserves.

Carrot Halwa

Ingredients

- 1 kg carrots (grated)
- 1 litre full-fat milk
- ½ cup sugar
- 4 tbsp ghee
- ½ cup khoya (optional)
- ½ tsp cardamom powder
- 10-12 cashews (chopped)
- 10-12 almonds (sliced)
- 2 tbsp raisins

Method: Heat a heavy-bottomed pan on medium heat and add the grated carrots. Stir continuously for about 5 minutes to remove excess moisture. Pour in the milk and bring it to a boil, then lower the heat and let the carrots cook, stirring occasionally until most of the milk has evaporated. Once the mixture thickens, add sugar and mix well. Continue cooking until the halwa starts leaving the sides of the pan. Add ghee and stir continuously for another 5 minutes to enhance the flavour. Mix in cardamom powder and khoya (if using), stir well. In a separate small pan, heat 1 tbsp ghee and fry cashews, almonds, and raisins until golden brown, then mix them into the halwa. Serve warm or chilled as a delicious dessert.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **NISHTHA,** D/o. **Rakesh Kumar Chechi,** R/ at Flat No. G - 6, B Block, Saroj Dynasty Apartment, Doddakannelli, Bengaluru -560035, have changed my name to **NISHTHA CHECHI,** vide affidavit dt:11.04.2025 before Notary **K.V. Mani,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Madhu G K** aged about 35, c/o Krishna Murthy T, No 41, 4th cross, 2nd main, Rajaram Layout, Kalkere, Bangalore-560043. I have declare that **MADHU** and **MADHU G K** is one and the same person that is me only. Vide affidavit Dt : 10/04/2025. Sworn before notary Uday Kumar K.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, the undersigned **K SUVARNA,** my Son **M JAI ADITHYA REDDY,** Resident #360, Y J Residency, 1st A Cross, Near Bus Stop, Opp to NCR Building, Doddenekkundi, Bangalore-560037, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **M JAI ADITHYA** to **M JAI ADITHYA REDDY** henceforth I shall be Known and called as **M JAI ADITHYA REDDY** for all purposes vide affidavit dated 12/04/2025 sworn before advocate and notary **G. RAJENDRA** at Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT

I, KUPPAMMAL D, is the Mother of Service No. 15323360N, Rank: HAV, Name: PARTHIPAN D Unit: HQ MEG & CENTRE, resident of House: 02, Katha Nagar, Bangalore north Jalahalli West Bangalore 560015. have changed my name from **K KUPPAMMAL to KUPPAMMAL D,** and my correct date of birth is **01/07/1958** but it mentioned as **01/07/1962** in my son service documents. I solemnly affirm and declare that both the names and DOB are indicating and referring myself as a same and one identical person, not different person whatsoever. Vide affidavit dated : 12-04-2025 sworn before advocate and notary N. Thulasi, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME

I **NEETHA RAO @ NEETHA N RAO** D/o Niranjan Rao H, aged 42 years, presently residing at No.144, F1, Valley View Apartment, 1st Main Road, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560072, do hereby declare that I have been called in both the name of **NEETHA RAO** and **NEETHA N RAO** and both are my names only and in this regard I have sworn to affidavit before Deepa M, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt of India, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT

I, P DHARMALINGAM, is the Father of Service No. 15323360N, Rank: HAV, Name: PARTHIPAN D Unit HQ MEG & CENTRE, resident of House: 02, Katha Nagar, Bangalore north Jalahalli West Bangalore 560015. have changed my name from **DHARMALINGAM to P DHARMALINGAM** and my correct date of birth is **01/01/1955** but it mentioned as **01/07/1954** in my son service documents. I solemnly affirm and declare that both the names and DOB are indicating and referring myself as a same and one identical person, not different person whatsoever. Vide affidavit dated : 12-04-2025 sworn before advocate and notary N. Thulasi, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Rajeshwari Naik,** aged about 46 years, residing at Aswani Sitara Apartments C-Wing, SH #304, Ramakrishnapura, Anekal, Bangalore-560099, do hereby declare that I have changed my son's name from **Udbhav Togari** to **Udbhav R,** vide affidavit dated 11.04.2025, sworn to before Chanchala Lakshmi, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT

I, YASHIKA P, is the daughter of Service No. 15323360N, Rank: HAV, Name: PARTHIPAN D Unit: HQ MEG & CENTRE, resident of House: 02, Katha Nagar, Bangalore north Jalahalli West, Bangalore 560015. have changed my name from **P YASHIKA to YASHIKA P** I solemnly affirm and declare that both the names are indicating and referring myself as a same and one identical person, not different person whatsoever. Vide affidavit dated : 12-04-2025 sworn before advocate and notary N. Thulasi, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Rajeshwari Naik,** aged about 46 years, residing at Aswani Sitara Apartments C-Wing, SH #304, Ramakrishnapura, Anekal, Bangalore-560099, do hereby declare that I have changed my son's name from **Yashneel Togari** to **Yashneel R,** vide affidavit dated 11.04.2025, sworn to before Chanchala Lakshmi, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

For SMART ADS & THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS
Contact : Mr Ravi Kumar
9886550650
080-22866893

A MEDITATION ON SILENCE, MYSTERY, AND THE WEIGHT OF UNSPOKEN TRUTHS

A SHARADHAA

AGNYATHAVASI

Director: Janardhan Chikkanna

Cast: Rangayana Raghu, Pavana Gowda, Siddhu Moolimani, Sharath Lohithashwa, Ravi Shankar Gowda, and Yamuna Srinidhi

RATING 3.5/5

WHAT we're often dominated by are noisy thrillers and formulaic crime dramas. *Agnyathavasi* arrives like a soft knock on a temple door. It doesn't beg for attention—it waits for you to lean in. Directed by Janardhan Chikkanna, whose earlier work *Gultoo* navigated the digital shadows of modernity, this film is a meditative pivot. It trades the tech-noir of neon cities for the wet silence of Malnad's forests, rewinding time to 1997. The pace is deliberate, the mood thick with mist, and the story is less about solving a crime than performing a ritual of remembrance.

Set in a remote village where modernity is still a rumour and the past seems to linger heavily in the present, *Agnyathavasi* opens not with action but with ritual. A station inspector (Rangayana Raghu) leads a life more akin to a farmer's, as his station hasn't seen a case in decades. The files are stiff with dust. The station bell is silent—a place more mausoleum than office. This stillness is broken when local scholar Srinivas Iyer (Sharath Lohithashwa) is found dead. At first, it seems natural. But whispers arise, and in this village, a whisper is enough to stir the dead. The bell rings again. The officer registers his first case in years.

What follows is not your typical whodunit. There are no ticking clocks or rapid cuts. Instead, Janardhan Chikkanna offers a procedural that unfolds like a puja—ritualistic, circular, and spiritual. Inspector Govindu leads the investigation, joined by Ananthu (Ravi Shankar Gowda), a pragmatic foil to Raghu's monk-like stillness. Ananthu questions the village's eerie calm, but the answers lie in silence—in roosters, rituals, and rusted memories.

Into this hushed world walks Rohit (Siddu Moolimani), a young man who, with his brother, brings the village its first computer. To the villagers, and especially to Iyer, the machine is not progress—it's a "soul-eater". Rohit becomes a conduit, contacting Arun, Iyer's estranged son, through email. Arun never appears in person, yet his presence, as a voice through a screen, haunts the narrative. His name trembles on the lips of Pankaja (Pavana Gowda), someone who is caught between her feelings for Arun and the difficulty in reaching him out.

In a poignant scene, Pankaja, unable to read English, asks Rohit to read Arun's letter aloud. She doesn't focus on the literal meaning of the words—she tries to discern the underlying emotions and unspoken truths in Arun's letter. A moment comes where Pankaja realises everything isn't as it seems. She knows how to bring Arun back—not just to the village, but into her life, without the aid of technology.

The villagers believe Srinivas Iyer's death disturbed something deeper—something metaphysical. And then, Pashambara enters the narrative. Its true nature is unclear—is it a physical object, a piece of information, or something more abstract? Regardless, it takes on a symbolic weight, representing a lingering threat connected to death, both subtle and unsettling.

Through it all, Rangayana Raghu delivers one of his most internalised performances. After his stillness in Shakahari, here he plays a man tethered not by duty but by ghosts. He doesn't solve a crime—he performs penance. He sees what others miss: the behaviour of animals, the silence in trees, the unease in old photo albums. Each page turned is a wound reopened.

The supporting cast—Ravi Shankar Gowda, Siddu Moolimani, Pavana Gowda, and Sharath Lohithashwa and Yamuna Srinidhi—contributes with striking restraint. Even the voice actors make their presence felt, adding weight to the film's atmosphere. Every role matters.

Technically, the film is sublime. Advaita Gurumurthy's cinematography doesn't just frame Malnad—it sinks into it. The forests loom like unspoken memories, the mist coils around old grief, and each frame feels soaked in time. Retro details—floppy discs, CRT monitors, CD 100 bikes—don't serve nostalgia; they mark a world mid-pivot, unsure whether to hold on or let go.

Charan Raj's score is nearly invisible, and rightly so. It doesn't tell us what to feel. Often, silence dominates—becoming the film's true soundtrack.

Still, *Agnyathavasi* isn't without flaws. It's a slow burn, and its first half may test some viewers' patience. Janardhan Chikkanna repeats scenes, offering new layers each time. For those expecting momentum, this repetition might frustrate. But for others, it's a deliberate meditation—the slow unveiling of buried truths.

The climax offers no sudden twist. Instead, it's a release. The case opens, but no killer is found. What the officer uncovers isn't a culprit—it's the weight of things unsaid: the grief of an entire village, the silences between people, the absences in memory.

The final moments leave lingering questions. Did the truth ever leave this village? Or has it always been here, hiding in plain sight, waiting for someone to be quiet long enough to see it?

In the end, *Agnyathavasi* is more than a mystery, as is the usually case for a film from Hemanth M Rao, who serves as a producer here. It's a meditation on silence, death and the consequences of unspoken truths. It's about a village that has forgotten how to speak its secrets—and a man who, in trying to uncover them, must confront his own past. And through it all, Pashambara lingers like an echo—its meaning just out of reach, elusive as the truth itself.

THE CRAZY STAR PRAISED KRISHNA AJAI RAO'S DEDICATION AS PRODUCER AND ACTOR, AND BOUGHT THE FIRST FIVE GOLD CLASS TICKETS FOR THE FILM AT ITS TRAILER LAUNCH

A SHARADHAA

Team Yuddhakaanda

I see a part of myself in Krishna Ajai Rao: Ravichandran

ANTICIPATION is soaring as the courtroom drama *Yuddhakaanda* gears up for its theatrical release on April 18. Starring Ajai Rao, the Pavan Bhat directorial tells the gripping tale of a lawyer fighting for justice on behalf of a mother whose young child falls victim to abuse. The launch of the trailer for *Yuddhakaanda* Chapter 2 was an event in itself as the legendary Crazy Star V Ravichandran graced the occasion with his presence. Ravichandran, known for his memorable role in the original *Yuddhakaanda* (1989), a remake of the Hindi classic Meri Jung, is closely tied to this sequel, offering his words of encouragement and insight on the film and the people behind it.

Yuddhakaanda Chapter 2 takes inspiration from the original, but this time the focus is not just on the courtroom. Ajai Rao, doubling as an actor and producer, has set out to make a significant social impact. Speaking passionately in media interactions, he says, "Being a father to a young daughter, I could not help but think about what I would do if my family ever encountered the kind of situation depicted in the film. I am determined to make a difference, and I hope this film sparks societal and legal changes to protect girls and women."

Ajai's ambitions extend beyond the screen. He hopes to screen *Yuddhakaanda* Chapter 2 for President Draupadi Murmu, believing that such exposure could give the film greater visibility and contribute to a wider discourse on justice and abuse. His mission is clear: To address relevant issues, while using his platform as an actor and producer to bring about change.

This film marks Ajai's first release since Shokiwala (2022). He believed this film is necessary to address vital social issues. With *Yuddhakaanda* Chapter 2, the focus shifts to the core message that: Justice delayed is justice denied.

Krishna Ajai Rao and Ravichandran

The film attempts to act as a poignant reminder to parents about safeguarding their children.

At the trailer launch, Ravichandran shares his admiration for Ajai, praising his dedication to cinema and the cause. He notes that the film's intense theme is a reflection of everybody's life. He says, "There is a journey, a serious atmosphere, and a sense of fear—watching Ajai Rao talk about his role, I saw the responsibility in him as a father and a citizen. I see his dreams, his passion, and his responsibility in making this film. Being 40 years in this industry, I can see the excitement and honesty in Ajai, and I see a part of myself in him."

He further expresses confidence in the team behind the film, including director Pavan Bhat, for their honesty and enthusiasm. He adds, "I could see the team's dedication. They have a message to deliver, and they are confident it will resonate with the audience."

Ravichandran also appreciates the child actor Archana Jois and Ajai's portrayal of Bharat, a modern-day lawyer who represents both strength and integrity. "Ajai is a lawyer, who both has strong convictions and physique. It is pretty much the same with the lawyer portrayal of Prakash Belawadi and TS Nagabharana's judge," Ravichandran notes, adding that the cast's blend of experience and youthful energy gives the film its unique dynamic.

Ravichandran feels a personal connection seeing the financial and personal sacrifices involved in producing the film. "When I heard Ajai talk about borrowing funds to make this film, it reminded me of my struggles. Cinema is a serious business, and such a determination and dedication is a rarity," he says, adding, "But it's clear Ajai has the conviction and passion for it."

To conclude, Ravichandran makes a heartfelt promise saying, "I will buy five tickets for this film. I will watch it in theatres, and I won't watch it for free. I will support the film wholeheartedly as Ajai Rao has put so much love and dedication into this film. I encourage others to do the same."

Yuddhakaanda Chapter 2's technical crew boasts music composers Hemanth Jois and KB Praveen, editor Sri Crazy Mindz and cinematographer Karthik Sharma.

Shivarajkumar lights up daughter Niveditha's debut production 'Firefly'

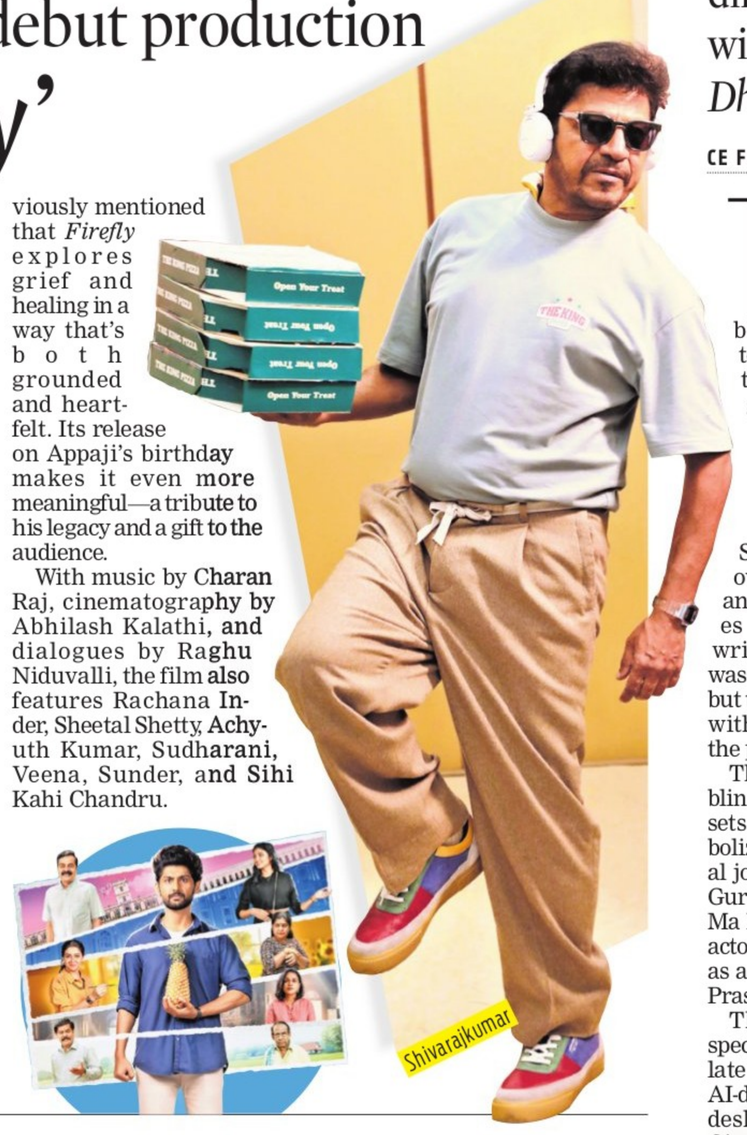
CE FEATURES

WE had earlier reported that Shivarajkumar makes a key appearance in *Firefly*, the debut production venture of his daughter, Niveditha Shivarajkumar, under the Shri Mutthu Cine Services banner. While the trailer, released by Kiccha Sudeep on Sunday, puts the spotlight on the film's emotionally fractured protagonist, it's Shivanna's surprise cameo at the end that truly ignites intrigue.

Firefly follows the life of Vivekananda, aka Vicky (Vamshi Krishna), a man battling insomnia and haunted by memories that refuse to fade. The trailer takes us deep into his world—his sleepless nights, buried grief, and the aching search for peace. And just when you think you've figured it all out, Shivarajkumar steps in, with more to unfold when the film releases on April 24.

"This film is about showcasing a complex emotion in a lighter tone," says producer Niveditha. "It's not about spectacle; it's about sentiment," she adds. Shivarajkumar had previously mentioned that *Firefly* explores grief and healing in a way that's both grounded and heartfelt. Its release on Appaji's birthday makes it even more meaningful—a tribute to his legacy and a gift to the audience.

With music by Charan Raj, cinematography by Abhilash Kalathi, and dialogues by Raghu Niduvalli, the film also features Rachana Inder, Sheetal Shetty, Achyuth Kumar, Sudharani, Veena, Sunder, and Sihi Kahi Chandru.



Surya marks his directorial debut with *Power Star Dharage Dodavanu*

CE FEATURES

THE muhurta for the Kannada film *Power Star Dharege Doddavanu* took place recently, kicking off a project that blends fanfare with the touching theme of eye donation. Director Shashank gave the ceremonial camera start, joined by veteran actor Suchendra Prasad, distributor Ramesh Babu, and other well-wishers.

Directed by debutant Surya—who has worked on over 15 films as an assistant and associate—the story traces back to 2014. Originally written for actor Yash, a teaser was even made using early CGI, but the film never took off. Now, with updates and new energy, the project has been revived.

The story revolves around a blind child who gains sight and sets out to fulfil a dream, symbolizing a devoted fan's emotional journey. Child artist Gnana Gururaj, known from Sa Re Ga Ma Pa, plays the lead. Theatre actor Palya Sidhi Vilas appears as a sculptor, while Suchendra Prasad plays a pivotal role.

The film will also feature a special CGI appearance of the late Puneeth Rajkumar, using AI-driven visual effects by Siddesh Hiremath (Wish U FX). Cinematography is by Vijay Bhaskar, with music and background score by debutant Anushree Sridhar Murthy. Produced by Pradeep Manjunath of Davangere, the film is set for release on October 29, 2025.

Dheekshith Shetty marks web series debut with *Touch Me Not*

CE FEATURES

ACTOR Dheekshith Shetty is building a diverse and interesting career across South Indian languages in silence. Marking his Kannada debut with *Dia* to make inroads into the gritty world of *Dasara* in Telugu, Dheekshith has moved forward with a steady mindset set on the story, and it continues to win him fans.

Recently, he made his web series debut with *Touch Me Not*, now streaming on JioCinema. Playing a curious and youthful character, Dheekshith surprised many with his transformation—looking much younger and bringing fresh energy to the role. His leap into the OTT space marks another step in expanding his range as a performer.

Back in Kannada cinema, the actor who caught attention for his films like *Blink* and *KTM*, has *Bank of Bhagyalakshmi* gearing up for its release.

Dheekshith will soon be seen in a new Kannada film directed by K Ashoka that will also feature Pruthvi Ambaar. He has also announced a fresh film with Blink director Srinidhi Bengaluru.

In Telugu, he's already gained a strong footing. After his role in *Mugguru Monagallu*, he has two more films—*KJQ* and *The Girlfriend*, where he stars opposite Rashmika Mandanna—lined up for release. Expanding further, Dheekshith has also stepped into Tamil and Malayalam industries, with shoots currently in progress. Dheekshith Shetty's presence in the South Indian film world is only growing stronger—one thoughtful step at a time and now *Touch Me Not* introducing him to a digital space.